

LG Invites Business Leaders To Invest In J&K

Says UT Is Undergoing A Rapid Process Of Transformation



Observer News Service

New Delhi: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is undergoing a rapid process of transformation and the change taking place in diverse sectors has given entrepreneurs a new set of wings to achieve new goals and tap into international markets, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday invited business leaders to invest in the Union Territory.

"Badalta Jammu and Kashmir is not just a slogan. It symbolizes the new aspirations, new hope of our entrepreneurs, business

community, artisans and the revival of the ancient culture. I invite the business leaders and potential investors to invest in J&K," he said.

He was addressing Jammu Kashmir Union Territory Day celebration at 42nd India International Trade Fair 2023 at Pragati Maidan here on Saturday.

In his address, Sinha commended the marketing excellence endeavour of India Trade Promotion Organization for bringing together exhibitors, buyers, sellers, distributors, customers, small and medium enterprises, **| More on P10**

Let's Join Hands To Save Lives, Stop Terror Recruitment: DGP

'Each Act Of Recruitment Will Be Treated As An Act Of Terror'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The newly appointed Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain on Saturday called for a joint effort of police, parents, religious figures and all social institutions to put an end to the terror recruitment and save precious lives of youth from death and destruction.

Talking to reporters after conducting his first-ever public grievance meeting at the Police Headquarters here, Swain pledged to launch an all-out war against the people who push innocent youth into terror folds and use them as cannon fodder.

"With community effort, we will be able to save a lot



of lives. If a youth joins terror ranks, we would like to meet his parents, visit his school and meet his teacher and headmaster. We would also meet the prayer leader of a Masjid where this boy would pray. This is not only the job of the police but all of us," he said.

"They are our own people. We have to view them differently. So, our sustained effort

will be to ensure to cut-off the handlers sitting across the fence," he added.

The DGP expressed optimism that with community effort, the recruitment of local youth will considerably fall leading to no more violent incidents and no further recruitment.

Serving a strong warning to the people who instigate youth to join terror ranks, the DGP said that there's a need to fight a war with them in a planned and sustained manner. Police, he said, are committed to fight this war.

"Why should a boy from a poor household become cannon fodder? Each act of recruitment will be treated as an act of terror. **| More on P10**

Kashmir Shivers As Mercury Settles Below Freezing Point

Agencies

Srinagar: The sub-zero temperatures were recorded at multiple places in Kashmir while a weak western disturbance has affected Jammu & Kashmir from Saturday, increasing the chances of light snowfall or rainfall at isolated places of the Union Territory.

As per the details, five stations of Kashmir including Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Budgam and Bandipora recorded minus temperature. In Anantnag, a minimum temperature of minus 1.6 degree Celsius was recorded while in Pulwama, minus 2.0 degree Celsius was recorded, the data said, adding that the lowest minimum temperature was recorded in Shopian at minus 3.6 degree Celsius.

According to the data, Budgam has recorded a low of minus 1.0 degree Celsius while Bandipora in north Kashmir has recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.1 degree Celsius.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir and Qazigund stations recorded 0.0 degree Celsius temperature last night.

At Kulgam and Baramulla stations, the minimum temperature has settled at 0.2 degree Celsius and 0.6 degree Celsius respectively.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng said that a weak Western Disturbance has affected Jammu & Kashmir today, but the impact will be too less. "The minimum temperature is expected to improve in the next two days while the sunny days are also expected till next week," he said.

He added that a weak Western Disturbance **| More on P10**

Budgam Court Convicts Man Of Killing Wife In 2011

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A fast track court in Budgam on Saturday held a man guilty of murdering his wife in the central Kashmir district more than a decade ago.

The court of Additional Sessions Judge (fast track), Budgam, Aijaz Ahmad Khan, convicted Mushtaq Ahmad Pandith alias Bilal of murdering his wife, Sameera Jan, on 1 May 2011 in their matrimonial house in Kralpora area of the district.

According to the prosecution, Sameera Jan was found dead in her husband's house on May 1, 2011, with a knife stabbed into her back. Her husband absconded soon after the crime.

He was found to have fled to Delhi after the crime and then moved to Jammu where he was arrested on May 13, 2011.

"There is no doubt that accused (Mushtaq) and deceased (Sameera) were last seen together as stated by **| More on P10**

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

Lal Singh Sent To 14 Days Judicial Custody

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Former J-K minister Lal Singh, arrested on November 7 by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged money laundering case, was sent to judicial custody for two weeks by a special court here.

Singh, the chairman of the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP), was produced through the virtual mode before Special Judge Bala Jyoti after the expiry of his 12-day ED remand.

"Since the investigation of the case is



ongoing and the accused is involved in a serious and non-bailable offence, besides as per IO (Investigation officer), the accused, herein, tried to derail the investigation by not cooperating... **| More on P10**

6 J&K PAVILION AT IITF IS GETTING EXTRAORDINARY response from domestic and international buyers. It has become the most effective instrument to promote the tremendous market potential of J&K"

HC Grants Bail To Journalist Fahad Shah

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed several charges including that of terror conspiracy against an editor of a news portal while granting him bail after 21 months in jail.

"We are following the procedures set in the bail. It will take some time before Fahad Shah walks out of jail," senior advocate P N Raina, who represented the editor of Kashmir Walla news portal before the high court, said.

He said the charges like terror conspiracy (Section 18) and waging war against the country (Section 121) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and imputations, **| More on P10**

HC Seeks Govt's Suggestion On List Of Words On Specially-Abled

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has asked the government to come up with suggestions on use of words that do not align with the dignity of the specially-abled persons.

"The petitioner has submitted a Handbook on list of words to be avoided while dealing with the specially-abled persons," said a Division Bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi while hearing a Public Interest Litigation filed by a lawyer, Badrul Duja.

"The official respondents have not come up with any such suggestion. They may do the needful by the next date of hearing," the court said and listed it on December 20.

In October this year, the Court had asked "all the parties involved" to submit a list of words that do not align with the dignity of individuals with disabilities.

The court had also asked its Registry to prepare a copy of the paper book and provide the same to the Advocate General along with various orders passed by it.

"All the parties involved shall compile and submit a list of words that do not align with the dignity of individuals with disabilities. The Registry is directed to prepare a copy of the paper book, including copies of the orders, and provide the same to learned Advocate General," the court had said.

In December last, the court had ordered that the specially-abled persons be treated properly **| More on P10**

Awaam Ki Awaaz

19 November, 2023
11:00 AM

ALL INDIA RADIO - J&K | DD - KASHIR
NewsOnAir

<https://anchor.fm/awaamkiawaaz>
Awaam Ki Awaaz- J&K

8493085049
www.awaamkiawaaz.jk.gov.in

DIPK-124(69)/23 Dated: 18/11/2023

THE OTHER SIDE

STORIES OF LOVE, LONGING & FRIENDSHIP

Catch prominent poet, writer and actor, **Bashir Dada** on 'The Other Side' Show, a popular show on Kashmir Observer TV.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smLAzqDjpt0k=3s>



To place an advertisement
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 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

NOTICE
 I have changed my name from (old name) Mariya Mudasar to New name Mariya Mudasar Wani. In future i will be known as Mariya Mudasar Wani. If anybody is having any objection He/She may contact Passport Office Srinagar within seven days, after 7 days no objection will be accepted.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTICE
 The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India Invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.

Auction Catalogue No.	EAZR-PMBJK-2
Auction Date & Time	01-12-2023 at 14:30 Hrs
Name of work	Allotment of space on contract basis for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) at Railway Station Srinagar

For participation registration and further information please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in 3619/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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 Amargarh, Sopore
 E : amid.zobara@jkbmail.com
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Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Shabir Ahmad Bulla, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notified dated 09-03-2023 thereby calling upon the Borrowers cum Mortgagors namely 1. Mr. Manzoor Ahmad War S/o. Mr. Mohamamd Ashoor War R/o. Rohama, Rafiabad, Baramulla & 2. Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad War S/o. Mr. Mohamamd Ashoor War R/o. Rohama, Rafiabad, Baramulla (Partners of M/S Ashoor & Sons) to repay an amount of Rs.1,01,03,121.13 (Rupees One Crore One Lac Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty One and Paise Thirteen Only) being the balance outstanding as on 28-02-2023 in the accounts of the Borrowers, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers/mortgagors having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers/mortgagors in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 15th of November, 2023.

The said Borrowers/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.1,10,00,667.13 (Rupees One Crore Ten Lacs Six Hundred Sixty Seven and Paise Thirteen only) being balance outstanding as on 31.10.2023 together with future interest thereon from 01.11.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers/mortgagors attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property

Property-"A":
 Land measuring 12 Kanals & 12 Marlas falling under Survey No.8980/7117/1 Min (01 Kanal & 07 Marlas) of Khata No.984 & Khewat No.145; under Survey No.8982/7118 Min (02 Kanals & 10 Marlas) of Khata No.984 and Khewat No.145; under Survey No.8637/6771 Min (01 Kanal & 15 Marlas) of Khata No.1095 & Khewat No.171; under Survey No.6338 Min (07 Kanals) of Khata No.1663 & Khewat No.266 situated at Mouza Rohama, Tehsil Rafiabad, District Baramulla belonging to 1). Mr. Manzoor Ahmad War S/o. Mr. Mohamamd Ashoor War R/o. Rohama, Rafiabad, Baramulla & 2). Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad War S/o. Mr. Mohamamd Ashoor War R/o. Rohama, Rafiabad, Baramulla (Borrowers cum Mortgagors).

Property-"B":
 Land measuring 05 Kanals & 10 Marlas falling under Survey No.6753 Min of Khata No.1096 & Khewat No.171 situated at Mouza Rohama, Tehsil Rafiabad, District Baramulla belonging to Mortgagor 2 namely Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad War S/o. Mr. Mohamamd Ashoor War R/o. Rohama, Rafiabad, Baramulla.
 Dated: 15-11-2023
 Place: Baramulla
(Mr. Arshad Manzoor)
Authorized Officer

Government OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer
REW Division Bandipora

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh short term E- NIT No. 150 /2023-24 Dated: 15/11/2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K , e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	EMD (In Rs.)	Major Head	Block/Panchayat	TYPE OF TENDER
1	Improvement of School Ground BWO Earth Filling Wall Repair at Shilvat	1.50	200	30 Days	DEE / others	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block:- Sumbal Halqa:- Shilvat	Halqa level
2	C/O Path with drain from Masjid Shareef to PMGSY road via Haji Rehmatullah ward No. 03	2.70	200/	30 Days	DEE OTH-ERS	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block:- ARIN Halqa:- kudura	open
3	Fencing Govt. primary school Herpora.	2.65	200/	30 Days	DEE OTH-ERS	3% of Adv Cost	PRI	Block:- Bankoot, Halqa:- Aulthwato	open
4	Development of Roads at Jamia Masjid SK Payeen, Budinar Chittaybanday-C, Nagbal nd PMGSY to H/O Bashir Ahmad Bazipora Ajas and Footpaths from Chittaybanday to Kumar Mohalla and From PMGSY Road to H/O Habib Ullaha nd Rnd&B Road to Masjid Sharief Changali	10.00	700/	30 Days	DEE / CEE/ BEE	3% of Adv Cost	DDC	Block:- Bandipora	open

Position of A/A: Accorded Position of T/S: Accorded
 The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16-11-2023
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	16-11-2023 from 06:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	21-11-2023 up to 06:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	22-11-2023 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Bandipora

5. Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document, Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bid is opened. In case the original Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bid is Opened for all responsive bidders Who have participated online, the Department shall serve the Notice as per Rules.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
REW Bandipora

NO-XEN/REW/BPR/20500-20506
DIPK-12438/23
DATED:-18-11-2023

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships 2023-24

Description: The Reliance Foundation Postgraduate Scholarships aim to enable and propel India's future leaders who can think big, think green, think digital for the benefit of society.
Eligibility: Students who are enrolled in the first-year full-time regular postgraduation programmes in following streams can only apply for this scholarship:
 Computer Science
 Artificial Intelligence

Mathematics and Computing Electrical and/or Electronics Engineering
 Chemical Engineering
 Mechanical Engineering
 Renewable and New Energy Material Science & Engineering Life Science
 Must have secured 550 to 1,000 in the GATE examination OR
 Must have scored 7.5 or above in their undergraduate CGPA (or % normalized to CGPA) [If students have not attempted GATE]
 Open for resident Indian citizens.
 Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR

6,00,000 over the duration of the degree
 Last Date to Apply: 17-12-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/RFS9

families across India to ensure continuity of their education
Eligibility: Open for Indian students currently studying in Classes 6 to 12. Applicants must have scored a minimum of 75% marks in the previous academic year. Their annual family income must be less than INR 3,00,000 from all sources.
 Prizes & Rewards: INR 10,000 for one year
 Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SBIFS6

Scholarship Name 2: SBIF Asha Scholarship Program for School Students 2023

Description: SBI Foundation has launched the SBIF Asha Scholarship Program for School Students 2023 to provide financial assistance to meritorious students from low-income

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) DIVISION PATTAN

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No. 26/RnB/Pattan/e-tender of 2023-24 DATED: 18/ 11 /2023.

Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Pattan on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, invites **percentage rate bids** in electronic tendering system for the following works **including their maintenance for five years** from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

- The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No	Name of Work	Tendered Cost including GST (Rs in lacs.)				Cost of Tender Documents (Rs in lacs.)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.)	Time of completion For construction work	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of online (Technical Bid)	Class of contractor	AA-Status	TS-Status
		Construction Part	Maintenance Part	Total cost work	Others								
1	Strengthening/Upgradation of Tilgam A and Tilgam B inner links (under NABARD) RIDF-XXIX	563.44	56.34	619.78	0.085	12.39	1.5 Years	18-11-2023	12-12-2023	"AAY"	CE/R&B/AA&B2 of 2023-24 Dated: 29-07-2023.	CE/R&B/TS/100/08 of 2023-24. Dated:- 13-11-2023.	

M.H Account:- NABARD RIDF XXIX	Position of AAA =	Accorded	Position of funds =	Available
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice			18-11-2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents			26-11-2023 from 10.00 AM.
3	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting			24-11-2023 from 11.00 AM.
4	Bid submission Start Date			26-11-2023 from 10.00 AM.
5	Bid Submission End Date			11-12-2023 upto 4.00 PM.
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)			12-12-2023 11:00 AM in the office of Superintending Engineer PWD R and B Circle Baramulla

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **Treasury Challan** in favour of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan** (tender inviting authority) and **Earnest Money** as per NIT in favour of Superintending Engineer PWD R and B Circle Baramulla. **The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (5% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD.**
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of **Superintending Engineer PWD R and B Circle Baramulla** (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days** from the date of opening of Technical Bids. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.**

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of **Treasury Challan** in favour of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan** and **Earnest Money** in favour of Superintending Engineer PWD R and B Circle Baramulla must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR/BG (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
- Bidders should quote in percentage below/the percentage above or at par at the bottom of the BOQ Percentage Template for the Work.**
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and Taxes:-** Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- For the NABARD project, the NABARD guidelines shall be strictly followed.**
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB)**

- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:-
 - Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.
 - Treasury Challan & CDR/FDR/BG/Bid Security Declaration Form
 - Valid GSTIN No. & PAN No.
 - Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B I.e. latest clearance certificate FORM GST-3B, GSTR-1 of the preceding Month to the issued of NIT.
 - All bidders shall mandatorily upload Verification Certificate from Concerned Chief Engineer/Superintending Engineer of Enlistment registration card. Non submission of the same shall render the bid Non-Responsive.
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
- All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
- Bidder must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents and tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. However, in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.**

No. R&B / Pattan/ 1227-37
DIPK-12463/23
Dated: 18/11/2023

Sd/
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform general public that I want to apply for Date of Birth Certificate in favour of my Daughter, namely Sanaya Zehra born on 14-03-2017 at Rainwari hospital. In this regard if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her own objection in the Office of Concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Mohd Shafi Mir
F/O Sanaya Zehra.
R/O . Baghi Ali Mardan Khan Alipora
Botakadal Lalbazar Srinagar nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 9th pass Discharge Certificate bearing Adm. No: 5095 DOB 26-11-1992. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt Girls High Secondary School Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shabnum Nazir
D/o Nazir Ahmad Waza
R/o Badran bmg

انتقال پر ملال

بہتر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے
 کہ محترمہ سائیکہ عوشیہ کالونی زکوہ سرینگر
 16 نومبر 2023 کو 20:23 بجے
 16 نومبر 2023 کو انتقال کر گئے۔
 اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس عطا کرے۔ مرحوم
 کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 20 نومبر 2023 بروز
 سوموار صبح گیارہ (11:00) بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ
 واقع بیرون باچھی دروازہ متصل دارالعلوم الشافعیہ سرینگر پر انجام دی جائے گی۔

سوگواران
 نسیم احمد زکی (فرزند)، حاجی عبدالوہید (برادر)، تنزیلہ مختار (ختر)
 رابطہ: 9419075049
 inf

ازنیات پہچان

مضمون: درخواست منجانب ثار احمد ولد علامت مولوں ساکنہ اندرگاہ ہر بارہ تحصیل چٹن بمراد
 عطا جنگی تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ بحق پر عاتق ثار

اشہار بمراد گاہی ہر خاص و عام

محاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمیں ساکنہ درخواست بجز DOD سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ دفتر بڑا
 میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں ضابطہ رپورٹ چیکر دار علاقہ سے عیاں ہے کہ اسے کبھی دیکھ ہذا کا
 سکوت دار ہے اور ساکنہ کا پسر عاتق ثاروں کی پیدائش تاریخ 06-05-2015 ہے۔
 اس کے علاوہ ساکنہ اپنے نمونہ کے طور پر ایک یا اس میں پیش کیا جسکی رو سے انہوں خائف بیان کیا
 کہ واقعی ساکنہ کا پسر کی تاریخ پیدائش 06-05-2015 ہے ساکنہ مندرجہ ذیل پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ
 حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی غرض یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ساتھ ہی م کے اندر پیش کرے
 معیار ڈرنے بعد کوئی بھی غرض یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تابع تصددا ر nj

ازنیات پہچان

مضمون: درخواست منجانب حنیظہ دختر محمد اکرم ولد اسد اللہ ساکنہ پہچان تحصیل چٹن بمراد عطا جنگی
 تاریخ وفات سرٹیفکیٹ بحق والد خود

اشہار بمراد گاہی ہر خاص و عام

محاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمیں ساکنہ درخواست بجز DOD سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ دفتر بڑا
 میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں ضابطہ رپورٹ چیکر دار علاقہ سے عیاں ہے کہ متوفی
 محمد اکرم ولد اسد اللہ ساکنہ پہچان اسوات رجنزی میں اندر انہیں ہے۔ البتہ ساکنہ نے اپنے رو سے
 ایک یا اس میں پیش کیا جسکی رو سے ساکنہ کا والد مورثہ 06-11-1999 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے ساکنہ
 دھتھر سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کی خواہ ہے اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی غرض یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ساتھ ہی م کے
 اندر پیش کرے معیار ڈرنے بعد کوئی بھی غرض یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تابع تصددا ر nj



Tourist, Locals In Hordes Swarm Srinagar's Mughal Gardens Amid Autumn Splendor

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As a display of nature's artistry, the Mughal Gardens in Srinagar have transformed into a captivating canvas of warm hues as the enchanting season of "Harud" paints Kashmir in a mesmerizing palette of orange and brown.

The renowned Mughal Gardens, including Shalimar Bagh, Nishat Bagh and Chashme Shahi, have become a major attraction for both locals and tourists wishing to witness the picturesque beauty of autumn in the valley. The air is filled with the sweet fragrance of blooming flowers, creating an immersive experience for visitors.

"Harud", the local term for autumn in Kashmir, has bestowed its magical touch upon the landscape, turn The Mughal Gardens have never looked more alluring, locals and visitors alike remarked with excitement, as fall brings a special appeal to Kashmir and these gardens capture the genuine essence of the season.

already stunning Mughal Gardens into a kaleidoscope of warm tones.

"Autumn is the most beautiful season of Kashmir, and I have travelled all along from south Kashmir to have a look at the famous Shalimar garden. I will enjoy its beauty and also capture pictures here that will remind me about this beautiful experience for a lifetime," said Jibril Ahmad from Pulwama.

Likewise, tourists are equally captivated by the beauty that unfolds during this time of the year.

Ankit Kumar, a visitor from Mumbai, said, "I have never seen anything quite like this. The colors are simply breathtaking, and the history embedded in these gardens adds to the overall experience."

Mughal Gardens date back to the 16th century when Emperor Jahangir commissioned their creation and design to reflect the concept of 'Paradise on Earth'. These gardens boast a harmonious blend of Persian, Central Asian and Indian architectural styles.



Covered with fallen leaves of chinar, children playing cricket at Naseem Bagh Park in Hazratbal area on a misty Saturday afternoon. KO Photo, Syed Mohammad Burhan

'Shift In School Timing Sparks Traffic Chaos In City'

Dep Dir Refused To Comment, Passes Buck To Dir School Education

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The shift in school timings within and outside Srinagar Municipal limits has worsened traffic problems at a time when it has become more frequent in the crowded city roads.

Commuters expressed disappointment at the regular gridlock on the streets of Srinagar, claiming it has become a regular occurrence, especially at Lal Chowk, Jahangir Chowk, Hyderpora, Shalteng, Saida Kadal, Gojwara, Nowhatta, and Habak.

Long lines of cars are frequently observed stuck on roads, especially in the morning. Talking to Kashmir Observer, most of the commuters expressed their annoyance over the city's never-ending gridlock.

"Traffic jams have become a routine affair on the Saida Kadal-Dargah route leading to Kashmir University. The traffic jams mostly occur during morning hours," said Imran Hussain, a student of Kashmir University, adding traffic jams have increased, ever since the work on drainage was started in our area," Imran added.

Another commuter, Zainul Abideen, who works at a private hospital in Qamarwari, had similar views about traffic jams in Shalteng locality.

"Traffic jams worsen in morning and evening hours, unfortunately many people do not follow traffic norms, leading to more irksome jamming," Zain said.

However, Traffic Officials say the clash in office and school timings is the main reason for traffic jams across the city.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic Muzaffar Ahmad Shah told Kashmir Observer that simultaneous reopening of offices, businesses, and schools puts immense pressure on the roads that eventually leads to gridlocks.

I think there should be further modifications in school timings, or else it is going to be difficult to streamline traffic. The schools, offices and business establishments open almost at the same time which causes congestion on roads," Muzaffar said.

"No parent wants to see his or her children stuck in traffic for long" he added.

In a bid to question the School Education Department over the new school timings, Kashmir Observer contacted

several officials. However, they kept passing the buck.

When contacted the Additional Secretary School Education Department, Naseer Wani said that the school timings do not come under his domain and the Director is the relevant person to be contacted.

Despite repeated attempts the Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Tasaduq Hussain Mir was not available for comments. When contacted, he did not respond to several calls. When Kashmir Observer tried to reach his office, the officials present there said he was on leave.

Moreover, the Joint Director School Education Department (Central Kashmir), Mohammad Rouf Rehman also passed the buck to the Director Education, saying he is not authorized to talk to the media. "I am barred from talking to the Press, talking to the media is a thing of the past" Rouf said.

Pertinently, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) had announced a change in school timings for all government and private schools starting from November 1st.

- TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

- RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJHERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

- HIGHWAY STATUS Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar-Leh - (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR 04 Jumada al-Awwal 1445
PRAYERS FAJR 5:41, ZUHR 12:15, ASR 3:45, Magrib 5:25, ISHA 7:49

This Day In History

- 461 - St Hilary begins his reign as Catholic Pope.
615 - Pope Deusedit/Adeodatus I elected to succeed Boniface IV.
1274 - Mongol army lands at Hakata Bay in Japan during their first invasion attempt and are defeated; a typhoon destroys most of their fleet as they withdraw
1302 - Pope Boniface VIII delegates degree "Unam sanctam".
1367 - League of Cologne goes against Danish king Waldemar IV.
1493 - Christopher Columbus discovers Puerto Rico, on his 2nd voyage.
1521 - Battle at Milan: Emperor Karel V's/pontifical/Spanish/German troops beat France & occupy Milan.
1620 - Mayflower reaches Cape Cod & explores the coast.
1621 - Rabbi Isaiiah ben Abraham aha-Levi Horowitz arrives in Israel.
1700 - Battle at Narva: Swedish King Karel XII defeats Russians.
1794 - Jay Treaty, first US extradition treaty, signed with Great Britain.
1824 - Storm causes St Petersburg flood, killing 10,000.
1850 - Alfred Tennyson becomes British Poet Laureate, succeeding William Wordsworth.
1863 - US President Lincoln delivers his Gettysburg address beginning; "Four score & seven years ago..."
1872 - E.D. Barbour of Boston is awarded the first U.S. patent for the first 'calculator', an adding machine capable of printing totals and subtotals.
1893 - 1st newspaper color supplement (NY World).
1895 - American inventor Frederick E Blaisdell patents the pencil.
1911 - NY receives first Marconi wireless transmission from Italy.
1926 - Leon Trotsky is expelled from the Politburo in the Soviet Union.
1932 - Shaft & Thyssen demand Adolf Hitler become German chancellor
1933- Women allowed to vote in Spain (helps right wing)
1939- Comic superheroes Flash (as Jay Garrick) and Hawkman (Carter Hall) first appear in "Flash Comics No. 1" published by DC
1940 - Belgian King Leopold III visits Adolf Hitler
1940- First major German air raid on Birmingham - about 440 bombers kill 450
1942- Operation Uranus: Soviet offensive begins during Battle of Stalingrad, 1 million Soviet soldiers encircle the German Sixth Army
1942- Russia launches winter offensive against Germans along Don front
1943- U-536 sinks in Atlantic Ocean
1944- World War II: U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt announces the 6th War Loan Drive, aimed at selling \$14 billion USD in war bonds to help pay for the war effort.
1949- Prince Rainier III coronation as 30th ruling Prince of Monaco
1950- US General Eisenhower becomes supreme commander of NATO-Europe
1951- US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
1952 - North American F-86 Sabre sets world aircraft speed record, 1124 KPH
1952- Spain joins UNESCO
1957- Antonin Novotny appointed president of Czechoslovakia
1962- Fidel Castro accepts removal of Soviet weapons
1967- The establishment of TVB, the first wireless commercial television station in Hong Kong
1968- Military coup in Mali, president Modibo Keita flees
1969- Apollo 12's Charles Conrad and Alan Bean become the 3rd and 4th humans on the Moon
1972- Leader of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) Seán MacStiofáin is arrested in Dublin
1977 -Egyptian President Anwar Sadat arrives in Israel
1977- Libya drops diplomatic relations with Egypt

IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE SPECIAL JUDGE DESIGNATED UNDER NIA ACT SRINAGA

through SHO P/S Parimpoda Srinagar V/s Asif Maqbool Dar S/o Mohammad Maqbool Dar R/o Bandai payeen Wagoora A/P H, No. 275 ,MIG Colony Bemina Srinagar.

Accused person FIR No.107/2020 U/Ss 13/UA PAct, U/Ss, 153-A, 124-A, 295-A IPC,

PROCLAMATION U/S 82 CRPC

Proclamation requiring the appearance of the accused Namely Asif Maqbool Dar S/o Mohammad Maqbool Dar R/o Bandai payeen Wagoora A/P H, No. 275 MIG Colony Bemina Srinagar. Whereas, in the above titled case FIR No. 107/2020 ,Offences U/S 13 /UA P Act, 153 -A, 124-A, 295-A IPC of P/S Parimpoda Srinagar the accused Asif Maqbool Dar S/o Mohammad Maqbool Dar R/o Bandai payeen Wagoora A/P H, No. 275 MIG Colony Bemina Srinagar has been arrayed as one of the accused and general warrant of arrest issued by the court of Ld. 2nd Addl. Munsiff (JMIC)Srinagar has been returned with the report that the said accused could not be found and it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused has absconded or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant. Proclamation is hereby made that the accused Asif Maqbool Dar S/o Mohammad Maqbool Dar R/o Bandai payeen Wagoora A/P H, No. 275 MIG Colony Bemina Srinagar is required to appear before this court within the period of 30 days from the date of Publication of Proclamation failing which proceedings under Section 83 C r . P, C, shall be launched against him.

Given under my hand and seal of the court today i.e. on 18-09-2023. Announced 18.09.2023

-/Sd

Additional Sessions Judge Special Judge Designated -JK00116; Code, Under NIA Act Srinagar J.O

Copy to -S r . SP, Srinagar for publication of the proclamation in the daily newspaper circulated in the area in which the accused ordinarily resides and affixation of the proclamation on the conspicuous part of the house of the accused in which he ordinarily resides or to some conspicuous place of the town or village in which the accused ordinarily resides, 18/9/2023 Additional Sessions Judge Special Judge Designated Under NIA, Act, Srinagar

Public Notice

I Zaffar Ahmad Wani s/o Mohd Munwar Wani resident of kullar Pahalgam have lost my 9th pass certificate and now I want to apply for duplicate of the same. If anyone have any objection in this regard he/she can contact the Principal of Higher School kullar pahalgam within 7 days of publication of this notice.

pd

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-Auction Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Table with 2 columns: Auction Catalogue No., FZRPARCEL67

Name of work: Contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment: 14654-F1, 14654-F2, 14654-R1, 22430-F1, 22942-F1, 22480-F1, 19108-F1, 15098-F1, 12422-F1, 19028-F1, 12470-F1, 19612-F1, 22445-F1, 12472-VP & 12414-VP.

Table with 2 columns: Auction Catalogue No., FZRPARCEL68

Name of work: Contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment: 12014-F1, 14508-R1, 14508-F2, 14633-F1, 14633-F2, 14634-R1, 12498-F1, 14634-F2, 14508-F1, 14634-F1, 14633-R1, 14632-F1, 12414-F1 & 12920-F-1.

Table with 2 columns: Auction Catalogue No., FZRPARCEL69

Name of work: Contract for Leasing of parcel space in Train No./ SLR compartment: 14036-R1, 12752-F1, 22552-F1, 14036-F1, 12588-F1, 14036-F2, 22706-F1, 12478-F2, 19804-F1, 19326-F1, 22402-F1 & 22486-F-1.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3618/23

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR Srinagar Municipal Corporation Office Of The executive Engineer Left River Works Division Ph. No. 0194-2458118 Email: lrwdsmc@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE

The critical dates of NIET No.35 of 2023-24 Dated:-06-11-2023 issued under endorsement No. SMC/ EELRWD/1641-1650 Dated:-06-11-2023 is rescheduled as under:-

Table with 3 columns: Sd/-, Documents Download Date, Date & Time for submission of Bids online, Technical Bid Opening Date

Sd/- E. Ishtiaq Ahmad Shah, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION, SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

NO: SMC/EELRWD/1716-23 DPK-NB-4306/23 Dated:-18/11/2023.

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Division Narbal Fax/Phone: 01951-260223 Email:floodspillchannelnarbal@gmail.com

Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Ganai, S/O Mohammad Sidiq Ganai, R/O Habak Shanpora Srinagar. No: - FSCDN/CS/6364-67 Dated: - 17/11/2023

Sub: Construction of crate work across Budgam Nallah D/S bud Adda Budgam.

- Ref: (1) This office allotment No. 57 of 10/2023, dated: 10/10/2023
(2) Assistant Executive Engineer, Flood Spill Channel Sub- Division Rambagh's letter No. FSC/SDR/767-69, dated: 16/10/2023, No. FSC/SDR/812, dated: 30/10/2023, No. FSC/SDR/856, dated: 07/11/2023 & No. FSC/SDR/874, dated: 11/11/2023.
(3). This office Notice No. FSCDN/CS/6133-35, dated: 08/11/2023.

- 1. Whereas the above named work stands allotted to you vide above referred allotment.
2. Whereas by virtue of the conditions of the allotment you were supposed to start the work within seven days from the date of issuance of the allotment.
3. Whereas you have not started the work yet.
4. Whereas you have been directed by the Assistant Executive Engineer Flood Spill Channel Sub-Division Rambagh several times as well as by this office vide above quoted reference to start the said work's vide above quoted references, but still you did not start the allotted work.

Now, you are hereby given a final opportunity through the print media to start the work within 07 days from the date of issuance of this letter failing which the work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost and your CDR will be forfeited which may be noted. Treat as most urgent.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Flood Spill Channel Division, Narbal. DPK-12441/23 dated: 18-11-2023

Five Countries Seek ICC Investigation Into Gaza War



Agencies

THE HAGUE: Five countries, including South Africa and Bangladesh, on Friday called for an International Criminal Court investigation into the Israel-Hamas war that has left thousands of people dead, its chief prosecutor said.

Amid international concern over the growing toll, the demand was made as families of some of the Israelis taken hostage by Hamas in their October 7 attacks that unleashed the war also sought ICC action.

ICC chief prosecutor Karim Khan said South Africa, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comoros and Djibouti — all ICC members — had sought an investigation of "the situation in the state of Palestine."

Khan said in a statement that an investigation into events in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank started in March 2021 now "extends to the escalation of hostilities and violence since the attacks that took place on October, 2023."

Khan, who recently went to the main crossing point between Gaza and Egypt, said his team had collected a "signifi-

cant volume" of evidence on "relevant incidents" in the war.

He appealed for more evidence to be submitted and added: "I will also continue my efforts to visit the state of Palestine and Israel in order to meet with survivors, hear from civil society organizations and engage with relevant national counterparts."

"I call upon all relevant actors to provide full cooperation with my office," Khan added — though Israel is not an ICC member.

South Africa's foreign ministry said it was urging fellow ICC members to join the referral seeking an investigation.

"South Africa remains committed to ending impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, and it is hoped that the situation in Palestine will be prioritized by the ICC in order to deliver justice to the victims of these grave crimes," it said.

Israel said that 239 people from several countries were seized by the Palestinian militant group when its fighters staged the October 7 attacks in which some 1,200 people, mainly civilians, died.

32 Killed In Israeli Air Strikes In South Gaza Amid Calls For Civilians To Flee

Agencies

GAZA: Israeli air strikes on residential blocks in south Gaza killed at least 32 Palestinians on Saturday, medics said after Israel again warned civilians to relocate as it turns to attack Hamas in the enclave's south after subduing the north.

Such a move could compel hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled south from the Israeli assault on Gaza City to move again, along with residents of Khan Younis, a city of more than 400,000, worsening a dire humanitarian crisis.

"We're asking people to relocate. I know it's not easy for many of them, but we don't want to see civilians caught up in the crossfire," Mark Regev, an aide to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, told MSNBC on Friday.

Israel vowed to annihilate the Hamas group that controls the Gaza Strip after its October 7 rampage into Israel in which its fighters killed 1,200 people and dragged 240 hostages into the enclave, according to Israeli tallies.

Since then, Israel has bombed much of Gaza City — the enclave's urban core — to rubble, ordered the depopulation of the northern half of the narrow strip and displaced around two-thirds of Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians. Many of those who have fled fear their homelessness could become permanent.

Gaza health authorities raised their death count on Friday to more than 12,000,



5,000 of them children. The United Nations deems those figures credible, though they are now updated infrequently due to the difficulty of collecting information.

Overnight on Saturday, 26 Palestinians were killed and 23 injured by an air strike on two apartments in a multi-storey block in a busy residential district of Khan Younis, according to health officials. A few km (miles) to the north, six Palestinians were killed when a house was bombed from the air in Deir Al-Balah, according to health authorities.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military, which says Hamas militants use residential buildings and districts in densely populated Gaza as cover for operations posts and weaponry, something the Islamist movement denies.

Israel dropped leaflets over Khan Younis telling residents to evacuate to shelters, suggesting military operations there were imminent.

Regev said Israeli troops would have to advance into the city to oust Hamas fighters from underground tunnels and bunkers but that no such "enormous infrastructure" existed in less built-up areas to the west, closer to the Mediterranean coast.

"I'm pretty sure that they won't have to move again" if they move west, he said, referring to people in the area. "We're asking them to move to an area where hopefully there will be tents and a field hospital."

Regev said that since western areas were closer to the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, humanitarian aid could be brought in "as quickly as possible".

AL-SHIFA HOSPITAL

At Gaza's largest hospital, Al Shifa in Gaza City, Israel said its forces had found a vehicle with a large number of weapons and what it called a Hamas tunnel shaft as it combs the complex in search of what it says is a Hamas command centre.

"Their Voices Getting Weaker": Families Speak To Workers Trapped In Tunnel



Press Trust of India

DEHRADUN: Their voices are getting weaker, their strength seemingly dimming, those keeping vigil outside the Silkara tunnel here said on Saturday after speaking to their relatives trapped inside for seven days — and counting.

The under-construction tunnel on the Char Dham route collapsed on Sunday morning with 41 labourers inside it. As the hours tick by, the desperation of families waiting outside is mounting. That rescue operations have been suspended since Friday when a US-made auger machine deployed to drill and push in pipes through the rubble to prepare an escape passage for the workers developed a snag has exacerbated the anxiety.

The health condition of the men counting the hours inside the dark tunnel is worsening and his family back home getting increasingly panicky, said Haridwar Sharma, whose younger brother Sushil is among those inside the tunnel.

"All we are getting are assurances from authorities that the trapped labourers will be rescued. It has been nearly a week," Sharma, who is from Bihar's Rohtas district, told PTI. "There is no work going on inside the tunnel. Neither the company nor the government is doing anything. The company says a machine is on the way," he added tearfully.

Among those waiting is the family of Gabbar Singh Negi. His two brothers, Maharaj Singh and Prem Singh, and son Akash Singh have been camping outside, desperate for any sliver of news that comes their way. The family belongs to Kotdwar in the state.

Maharaj said he spoke to Gabbar through a pipe used for supplying oxygen and his voice sounded very feeble. "I could not talk to my brother. His voice sounded very weak. He was hardly audible. Rescue work in the tunnel has come to a halt. Those trapped are also short of food and water. We have come to the end of our patience. What more can I say?" Maharaj told PTI.

At 76.22 Per Cent, Madhya Pradesh Sees Its Highest Ever Assembly Polls Voter Turnout; Seoni Tops List

Press Trust of India

BHOPAL: A voter turnout of 76.22 per cent was recorded in the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, which is the highest in the state's history, officials said on Saturday.

Polling was held for all 230 assembly constituencies in a single phase on Friday.

The voter turnout this time is the highest in the history of Madhya Pradesh since it was founded in 1956. It also surpassed the 75.63 per cent voter turnout of the 2018 assembly polls by 0.59 per cent.

Seoni district in east Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest voter turnout of 85.68 per cent, while the tribal-dominated Alirajpur in the western region saw the lowest voter turnout of 60.10 per cent, the officials said.

The second highest voter turnout of 85.23 per cent was recorded in the Naxalites-hit Balaghat district in the western region sharing a border with Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, indicating that ballots prevailed over bullets as Maoists discouraged people from voting and put roadblocks in the election process.



Figures reveal that the voter turnout percentage over the past few elections has been on the rise in the state. It was 67.25 per cent in 2003, 69.78 per cent in 2008, 72.13 per cent in 2013 and 75.63 per cent in 2018.

Since 2003, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the assembly elections thrice, while the Congress could emerge victorious only once.

In the 2003 elections, the BJP garnered 42.50 per cent votes, the Congress 31.70 per cent and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and others 10.61 per cent. The BJP won 173 seats, the Congress 38 and the BSP 2 at that time.

In the subsequent assembly elections (in 2008), the BJP polled 38.09 per cent votes,

the Congress 32.85 and the BSP and others 9.08 per cent. At that time, the BJP won 143 seats, the Congress 71 and the BSP and others the rest of seats.

In 2013, the BJP received 45.19 per cent votes, Congress 36.79 and BSP and others 6.42 per cent. Result — BJP came out with flying colours in 165 seats, Congress 58 seats and BJP and others in the rest.

In 2018, the BJP garnered 41.02 per cent votes, the Congress 40.89 per cent and the BSP and others 10.83 per cent votes. Even after getting more vote share than the Congress, the BJP could win only 109 seats as against the grand old party's 114, while the rest went to the BSP, the Samajwadi Party and Independents.

FIR Against Aaditya Thackeray For 'Inaugurating' Bridge Without Permission

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Mumbai Police registered a case against Shiv Sena MLA Aaditya Thackeray and a few others on Saturday for allegedly 'inaugurating' a part of a bridge in Lower Parel area of the city without the civic body's permission, an official said.

Thackeray, a former Maharashtra minister, claimed that the construction of the bridge was completed two weeks ago. But, it was not opened to the public as Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had no time to inaugurate the bridge.

(FIR) was registered against Thackeray based on a complaint lodged by a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) official.

A police official said that as per the complaint, Thackeray, Sena's members of legislative council Sachin Ahir and Sunil Shinde, former mayors Kishori Pednekar and Snehal Ambekar, and 15 to 20 others inaugurated the second carriage-way of Delisle Bridge on Thursday night.

The bridge was located in Thackeray's Worli constituency.

The act of inauguration was illegal as the bridge was still incomplete and

not certified safe for use. Its premature use could pose a risk to motorists, the complaint said.

The FIR was registered under Sections 143, 149 (both pertaining to Unlawful Assembly), 336 (Rash or Negligent Act) and 447 (Criminal Trespass) of the Indian Penal Code, the official said.

The Mumbai Municipal Commissioner currently acts as a state government-appointed administrator as the term of the BMC's general body has expired.

Eknath Shinde became Chief Minister in June 2022 after splitting the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena.

Mumbai Teen Kills Self After Father Stopped Him From Playing Mobile Games: Cops

Agencies

MUMBAI: A minor boy took his own life after his father allegedly stopped him from playing games on his mobile handset, the police said.

According to information shared by the police, the boy, aged 16, died by suicide at his residence in the Malad Malwani area of Mumbai.

The father told police that his son was addicted to mobile games.

"Often, he would play games on his mobile handset till late into the night," a police officer said.

"Around 11.30 pm on Thursday, the child was playing mobile games when his father snatched his phone and asked him to go to sleep," the officer added.

"The boy, in response, threatened to harm himself if he wasn't allowed to play mobile games. Next morning, his father woke up to find him hanging. He rushed the boy to a nearby hospital but he was declared dead on arrival," the officer added.

Malwani Police recorded the statement of the boy's father and filed an Accidental Death Report (ADR) in the report.

Moldovan President's Dog Bites Visiting Austrian Leader

Agencies

CHISINAU: Moldovan President Maia Sandu's dog overturned protocol on Thursday by biting visiting Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen on the hand, although Austria's leader was forgiving and later gave the excitable pup a toy.

The incident, Moldovan media reported, occurred when the two leaders were strolling in the courtyard of the Moldovan presidential residence and Van der Bellen tried to pet the dog, a rescue named Codrut, or small forest.

Sandu apologised in English and explained that the dog had become frightened by large numbers of people nearby. Van Der Bellen appeared with his hand bandaged at his next meeting, with the speaker of Moldova's

parliament. In a video posted to Instagram on Friday, Van der Bellen sympathised with the first pup.

"Everyone who knows me knows that I'm a big dog lover and can understand his excitement," he wrote, adding his meeting with Sandu and other top officials had been "very good".

Van der Bellen added that he had gifted the dog a small toy on the last day of his visit.

The talks in Chisinau, attended by Van Der Bellen and the president of Slovenia, focused on the bid by Moldova, which lies between Ukraine and Romania, to join the European Union.

Sandu, who took in the dog after it was hit by a car, posted pictures on social media with her pet and the two presidents. Reuters



NEWS MAKERS

HC Seeks Details Of 13 Ex-Legislators Occupying Govt Bungalows

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has directed the estates department to submit the details of 13 former ministers and ex-legislators occupying government bungalows in Srinagar and Jammu.

The department has already submitted the details of 35 such occupants. Hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) pertaining to unauthorised retention of 48 bungalows by former ministers and ex-legislators, the division bench of the high court in Jammu asked for the required information by December 15 when the case will be taken up again.

The hearing in the matter was held through video conference.

Jammu and Kashmir had ceased to be a state on August 2, 2019, after its special status under Article 370 of the Constitution was abrogated and it was bifurcated into Union territo-

ries of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Advocate S S Ahmed, appearing for the petitioner, accused the estates department of deliberately delaying the matter by submitting incomplete information to the court when categorical directions had been issued for furnishing the list of 48 occupants with regard to their alternative accommodation or houses either in the Jammu or Kashmir regions.

The estates department, in response to a division bench order on October 18, has filed a compliance report indicating the reply of 35 occupants as to whether they possess any alternative residential accommodation at Jammu or Srinagar.

Ahmed submitted that the status report is silent about 13 occupants, mostly belonging to the BJP, including its former mayor Chander Mohan Gupta and former minister Bali Bhagat. The occupants also include Awami National Conference leader Muzaffar Shah, he said.

The total names submitted in the report by estates department through Senior Additional Advocate General S S Nanda are 38 but it is also silent with regard to former legislators Sunil Sharma, Bashir Ahmad Dar and Mohd Amin Bhat as these occupants have not filed their replies to the notices whether they possess any alternative residential accommodations, Ahmed said.

He also questioned the claim of former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad that he does not possess any private house. He has a residential house at Hyderabad in Srinagar, which has a total area of 21,600 square feet and build up area of 3,600 square feet, Ahmed claimed.

He also claimed that former deputy chief minister Muzaffar Hussain Beig has a three-storey residential house in the Brane-Nishat area of Srinagar, while the BJP president and former legislator Ravinder Raina has constructed a new house at Simbal Camp in Jammu.

J&K Saw 6,000 Dengue Cases, 8 Deaths This Year

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Over 6000 cases of dengue were reported this year while eight persons have died due to the disease so far in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

The official of State Epidemiology said that the majority of the cases (3841) were reported from Jammu district. It was followed by Udhampur district (881 cases) followed by Kathua (549 cases) and Samba (349 cases), he said.

"There were 97 cases in Rajouri, 66 in Reasi, 65 in Doda, 62 in Ramban, 36 in Poonch, 9 in Kishtwar, 26 in Kashmir and 40 from other areas," he said.

This year's count is seen to be less than last year when a record 8,269 dengue cases along with 18 fatalities were registered. According to data for more than a decade, 1,709 cases were reported in 2021, 439 in 2019, 53 in 2020, 214

in 2018, 488 in 2017, 79 in 2016, 153 in 2015, four in 2014, 1 837 in 2013, 16 in 2012, three in 2011, none in 2010 and two in 2009.

According to the official, the cases are on decline now but advised people take "pre-emptive" measures in the absence of a dengue vaccine and called for proactive prevention to combat the painful ailment.

He said a total of 1911 dengue patients have been admitted to the hospitals till date and of them, 1766 have been discharged and 67 patients are still under treatment.

"Panic is unnecessary but vigilance and preventive measures are crucial," he said.

The official said that individuals who test positive for dengue should prioritise physical and mental rest, maintain proper hydration, and consume a diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

Outlining a comprehen-

sive approach to dengue prevention, he urged people to manage and modify the environment to prevent mosquitoes from accessing egg-laying habitats. "This involves proper disposal of solid waste, removal of artificial water-holding containers, and regular cleaning and maintenance of domestic water storage units," he said and recommended appropriate use of insecticides in outdoor water storage containers.

The doctor informed about the helpline number 104 for assistance which is available from 9 am to 6 pm daily.

He said positive patients are provided counselling and guidance through the helpline.

Healthcare professionals recommend eliminating stagnant water that serves as mosquito breeding sites at home, schools, workplaces, and their surroundings to

'Drunk' School Teacher Suspended After Viral Video

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A primary school teacher in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district was suspended after a video showing him in an inebriated state while on duty surfaced online, officials said on Saturday.

A video of highly intoxicated Dalair Singh, the teacher on duty at a school in Dharihdar village of Chassana, had gone viral on social media.

Taking serious note of the video, the chief education officer of Reasi ordered Singh's immediate suspension and also ordered an inquiry into his conduct, the official said.

Pending inquiry into his conduct, Singh is placed under suspension with immediate effect in connection with a viral video, an official quoting the order said.

The suspended teacher is directed to report to the deputy commissioner's office in Reasi for further duties, he added.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Chhath Puja Festival, Northern Railway, in association with other zonal railway, has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency / Day	Period
03255	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Thursday, Sunday	23.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03256	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Patna Jn	17:20	Friday, Monday	24.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
02391	Patna Jn	22:20	Anand Vihar Terminal	15:00	Saturday	25.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
02392	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Patna Jn	17:20	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03635	Gaya Jn	14:15	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Mon, Wed, Fri	20.11.2023 to 08.12.2023
03636	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:00	Gaya Jn	20:45	Tue, Thu, Sat	21.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
05557	Jaynagar	06:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Tuesday	21.11.2023 to 05.12.2023
05558	Anand Vihar Terminal	07:30	Jaynagar	06:30	Wednesday	22.11.2023 to 06.12.2023
04678	Firozpur Cantt Jn	13:25	Patna Jn	17:00	Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
04677	Patna Jn	18:45	Firozpur Cantt Jn	22:40	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04012	New Delhi	19:20	Darbhanga Jn	16:45	Tue, Friday	upto 28.11.2023
04011	Darbhanga Jn	18:00	New Delhi	16:40	Wednesday, Saturday	upto 29.11.2023
04518	Chandigarh	23:15	Gorakhpur	18:20	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04517	Gorakhpur	22:05	Chandigarh	14:10	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
04530	Bhatinda Jn	20:55	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Sunday, Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
04529	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	19:10	Monday, Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04060	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Jaynagar	15:15	Tuesday, Friday	upto 28.11.2023
04059	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	19:55	Wednesday, Sat	upto 29.11.2023
04488	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Gorakhpur	14:00	Saturday	upto 25.11.2023
04487	Gorakhpur	17:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:40	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
04010	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:45	Jogbani	05:20	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
04009	Jogbani	09:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	16:05	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
01664	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:10	Saharsa Jn	11:20	Monday	upto 27.11.2023
01663	Saharsa Jn	14:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:55	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	00:30	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
03258	Anand Vihar Terminal	05:00	Danapur	20:45	Monday	27.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
05577	Saharsa Jn	19:10	Ambala Cant Jn	23:15	Friday	24.11.2023 to 08.12.2023
05578	Ambala Cant Jn	03:40	Saharsa Jn	09:45	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05531	Raxaul Jn	22:25	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:00	Sunday	26.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05532	Anand Vihar Terminal	20:00	Raxaul Jn	14:30	Monday	27.11.2023 to 11.12.2023
05273	Muzaffarpur Jn	18:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Wednesday, Saturday	22.11.2023 to 09.12.2023
05274	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:00	Thursday, Sunday	23.11.2023 to 10.12.2023
05005	Gorakhpur	14:40	Amritsar Jn	09:30	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
05006	Amritsar Jn	12:45	Gorakhpur	08:50	Saturday	upto 02.12.2023
04049	New Delhi	23:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25	Monday, Saturday	upto 27.11.2023
04050	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:30	New Delhi	06:25	Tuesday, Sunday	upto 28.11.2023
04080	New Delhi	19:20	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Mon, Thu, Sat	upto 30.11.2023
04079	Varanasi Jn	18:35	New Delhi	09:00	Tue, Fri, Sun	upto 01.12.2023
01654	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	23:20	Varanasi Jn	23:55	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
01653	Varanasi Jn	06:20	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:20	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
04646	Jammu Tawi	05:45	Barauni Jn	12:10	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04645	Barauni Jn	15:15	Jammu Tawi	22:30	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
04051	Saharsa Jn, (Unreserved Spl.)	07:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:30	Sunday	19.11.2023
04057	Jaynagar (Unreserved Spl.)	11:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:00	Sunday	19.11.2023
04066	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:00	Patna Jn.	16:00	Monday, Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
04065	Patna Jn.	17:45	Anand Vihar Terminal	10:35	Tuesday, Friday	upto 01.12.2023
04062	Delhi Jn.	08:05	Barauni Jn.	06:30	Sunday	19.26.11.23 & 03.10.12.23
04061	Barauni Jn.	08:00	Delhi Jn.	05:50	Monday	20.27.11.23 & 04.12.12.23
01676	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:15	Muzaffarpur Jn.	21:15	Monday, Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
01675	Muzaffarpur Jn.	23:00	Anand Vihar Terminal	23:30	Tuesday, Friday	upto 01.12.2023
01678	New Delhi	08:10	Gaya Jn.	00:30	Monday, Friday	20.24.27.11.23 & 01.04.12.23
01677	Gaya Jn.	07:35	New Delhi	23:35	Tuesday, Saturday	21.25.28.11.23 & 02.05.12.23
02250	New Delhi (Rajdhani Spl.)	19:10	Patna Jn.	07:30	Sun, Tue, Thu, Sat, Mon, Wed	19.21.23.25.27 & 29.11.23
02249	Patna Jn. (Rajdhani Spl.)	09:00	New Delhi	21:00	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun, Tue, Thu	20.22.24.26.28 & 30.11.23
05283	Muzaffarpur Jn.	18:11	Anand Vihar Terminal	11:00	Wednesday, Saturday	upto 18.12.2023
05284	Anand Vihar Terminal	13:25	Muzaffarpur Jn.	07:00	Thursday, Sunday	upto 19.12.2023
09097	Bandra Terminus	21:50	Jammu Tawi	08:35	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
09098	Jammu Tawi	23:20	Bandra Terminus	10:10	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
09523	Okha	10:00	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	10:10	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
09524	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	13:20	Okha	13:50	Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
03435	Malda Town	09:30	Anand Vihar Terminal	12:30	Monday	20 & 27.11.2023
03436	Anand Vihar Terminal	18:30	Malda Town	23:30	Tuesday	21 & 28.11.2023
02246	New Delhi (Gati Shakti Spl.)	23:45	Patna Jn.	15:50	Daily	19.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
02245	New Delhi (Gati Shakti Spl.)	19:00	New Delhi	10:25	Daily	19.11.2023 to 01.12.2023
05734	Katihar	07:50	Amritsar	00:05	Saturday	upto 25.11.2023
05733	Amritsar	12:45	Katihar	03:30	Monday	upto 27.11.2023
04527	Saharsa Jn.	19:00	Ambala Cantt.	22:20	Mon, Thu, Sun, Wed	20.23.26 & 29.11.2023
04528	Sirhind Jn.	11:25	Saharsa Jn.	16:00	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue	19.22.25 & 28.11.2023
04490	New Delhi	19:35	Darbhanga Jn.	16:45	Tue, Fri, Mon, Thu	21.24.27 & 30.11.2023
04489	Darbhanga Jn.	18:00	New Delhi	16:40	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue, Fri	19.22.25.28.11.23 & 01.12.23
04115	Prayagraj Jn.	21:25	Anand Vihar (T)	08:15	Tuesday, Thursday	21.11.2023 & 23.11.2023
04116	Anand Vihar (T)	10:15	Prayagraj Jn.	20:00	Wednesday, Friday	22.11.2023 & 24.11.2023
05023	Gorakhpur Jn.	20:55	Delhi Jn.	12:30	Sunday	upto 03.12.2023
05024	Delhi Jn.	14:30	Gorakhpur Jn.	07:30	Monday	upto 04.12.2023
05115	Chhapra	17:45	Anand Vihar (T)	11:50	Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
05116	Anand Vihar (T)	14:45	Chhapra	09:30	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
05306	Lal Kuan	22:00	Chhapra	07:10	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun	upto 29.12.2023
05305	Chhapra	08:55	Lal Kuan	18:00	Wed, Thu, Sat, Mon	upto 30.12.2023
04016	New Delhi	14:55	Saharsa Jn.	15:50	Tuesday	21.11.2023
04015	Saharsa Jn.	18:00	New Delhi	19:20	Sun, Wed	19 & 22.11.2023
02248	Anand Vihar (Terminal)	00:30	Patna Jn.	16:30	Thu, Sat, Thu	23.25 & 30.11.2023
02247	Patna Jn.	19:10	Anand Vihar (Terminal)	10:50	Thu, Sat, Thu	23.25 & 30.11.2023

09129	Vadodara	19:00	Haridwar	14:30	Saturday	upto 25.11.2023
09130	Haridwar	17:20	Vadodara	11:25	Sunday	upto 26.11.2023
05065	Gorakhpur Jn.	23:00	New Delhi	12:00	Wednesday	29.11.2023
05066	New Delhi	14:00	Gorakhpur Jn.	04:15	Thursday	30.11.2023
05069	Gorakhpur Jn.	08:00	New Delhi	22:05	Tuesday	upto 28.11.2023
05070	New Delhi	00:30	Gorakhpur Jn.	14:45	Wednesday	upto 29.11.2023
05071	Gomti Nagar	23:00	New Delhi	08:15	Thursday	upto 30.11.2023
05072	New Delhi	10:00	Chhapra Jn.	04:15	Friday	upto 01.12.2023
05159	Chhapra Jn.	23:55	New Delhi	20:00	Saturday	upto 25.11.2023
05160	New Delhi	00:30	Chhapra Jn.	19:25	Monday	upto 27.11.2023
09557	Bhavnagar	10:10	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	08:50	Friday	24.11.2023 & 01.12.2023
09558	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	13:20	Bhavnagar	10:00	Saturday	25.11.2023 & 02.12.2023
05527	Darbhanga Jn.	13:15	Delhi Jn.	13:30	Thursday	23.11.2023 to 07.12.2023
05528	Delhi Jn.	15:30	Darbhanga Jn.	15:45	Friday	24.11.2023 to 08.12.2023
03227	Ara Jn. (Unreserved Spl.)	15:45	Anand Vihar (T)	07:15	Wed, Sat	22, 25, 29.11.23 & 02.12.23
03228	Anand Vihar (T) (Unreserved Spl.)	09:30	Ara Jn.	04:00	Sun, Thu	19, 23, 26, 30.11.23 & 03.12.23
04018	New Delhi	14:55	Bapudham Motihari	12:15	Tue, Fri, Mon	21, 24 & 27.11.2023
04017	Bapudham Motihari	15:00	New Delhi	13:15	Sun, Wed, Sat, Tue	19, 22, 25 & 28.11.2023
04028	Anand Vihar (T)	01:00	Bapudham Motihari	23:30	Tue, Fri, Mon	21, 24 & 27.11.2023

The term “Baandh”, the enactors of famous Kashmiri folk-art Bande Pather, has been reduced to derogatory status. No matter how much one tries to say otherwise, the reality is that our indifference to our folk continues unabated. We as a society have pushed our culture which includes folklore into oblivion. Kashmir has been unique in that the folklore it evolved, catered to its aesthetic and social needs simultaneously. Kashmir’s folk-theatre, folklore and other forms of folk-art were sensitive to both the artistic subtleties as well as the social realities of their times. Thus, we see in Kashmiri literary, plastic and performing arts, a unique amalgam of artistic creativity and socio-political sensitivity.

Modern temperament, in its hasty and artificial modes of judgement, has consigned all traditional modes of enactment, self-articulation and self-construction to the margins of social mainstream and has not only belittled but altogether ignored the value and worth of these modes of expression and experience. We tend to ignore that our folklore, be it Bande Pather, Ladishah or other myriad and multiple forms of folk-art, are no mere plays, no ordinary theatrical episodes, but the liveliest and the most dynamic repositories of our socio-cultural evolution, the integral components of our cultural collective identity and invincible witnesses to our historical and existential drama.

Laddi Shah, which is a storytelling musical genre originated in Jammu and Kashmir with its roots in traditional and humorous folk singing originally sung by minstrels while locally wondering from one place to another. It is usually sung in Kashmiri language to express anguish or to entertain people in a rhythmic form primarily revolving around political, social and cultural issues in the form of ballad or melodious satire. Bhand Pather is an age-old traditional folk theatre of Kashmir. It is usually held in open spaces. In this interesting theatre form, there are no predetermined scripts. This form of theatre has a traditional performance from and portrays social, cultural, religious and political dilemmas prevailing among masses.

There is no harm in celebrating music and drama from other cultures. It promotes multiculturalism and paves the way for bringing people closer to one

Hold on to Kashmiri Tradition More Firmly

Amir Suhail Wani



File photo of Theatre play in Srinagar

“Progress doesn’t lie in copying the Western hegemonic habits of life or art but to imbibe their scientific spirit and academic rigour without belittling our roots and without turning away from our vernacular modes of thought and experience. While we have opened our case with the performing arts of Ladishah and Bande Pather, the analysis applies to all the modes and manifestations of tradition and culture

another. But when it comes at the cost of the erasure of indigenous art-forms and threatens the very raison d’être of tradition’s in its many manifestations, an alarm is to be raised.

What has been observed over the past years is the sheer indifference on part of

Kashmiris to their vernacular modes of music, theatre, clothing and modes of living. It involves a submissive and blind imitation of alien cultures even when it comes at the cost of cultural erasure as well as erosion. The thought doesn’t cross our minds that this moribund imi-

tation cuts at our roots and threatens not only our social identity but also posits us against a situation where we can’t situate ourselves against any tangible frame of reference to define our subjective self and our existential being.

The things of cultural import be they

from any order, are no mere objects of entertainment, as stated before, but are the axes and coordinates in which one locates him/herself and in relation to which he shapes the consciousness of his existence as a socio-historical being.

How many people are left in the younger generation to understand the lyrics of Shamas Faqeer, Wahab Khar or even the poet of recent past Ahad Zargar? Our youth are moved by jazz and pop but how many are there to understand and appreciate the beauty of Sufiyana Mosiqi? This cultural decadence is not confined to a few art forms but is so pervasive that it has altogether metamorphosed our cultural sensitivities and pushed us into orbits of alienation.

It is no regression or anachronism to appreciate our past and to cherish our tradition and traditional values, be they ethical, social or cultural. We often tend to see the discarding of the past as a passport to progress but the fact remains that one can be progressive and traditional at the same time. In our haste, we perhaps, ignore the fact that progress and prosperity doesn’t come to nations by turning their face away from the past but by mastering the fields of knowledge and by staying attuned with the intellectual call of the day. The West continues to preserve and celebrate Mozart as well as the memories of Gothic architecture. It continues to preserve the centuries old London street houses and values all the objects of its cultural and traditional importance. Progress doesn’t lie in copying the Western hegemonic habits of life or art but to imbibe their scientific spirit and academic rigour without belittling our roots and without turning away from our vernacular modes of thought and experience. While we have opened our case with the performing arts of Ladishah and Bande Pather, the analysis applies to all the modes and manifestations of tradition and culture and is a call to celebrate everything that is best in our cultural praxis while at the same time navigating our path through the emerging challenges of modernity.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The author is a Srinagar based columnist

Calling The West’s Bluff

Developed countries continue to shirk responsibility, robbing COPs of any real potential.

Deepak Gupta & K Krishan

The role of developed nations in the annual Conference of Parties (COP) meetings, in recent years, has shown a distressing pattern—undermining the concept of their historical responsibility, downplaying their obligations while failing miserably to meet even their inadequate commitments related to GHG emissions cuts, climate finance and technology transfer, and trying to shift the burden of mitigation to larger developing nations. The current global scenario does not give confidence for a radical shift in their stance. Hence, we approach COP 28 in Dubai with sense of déjà vu and fears of impasse.

Their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) were inadequate to limit temperature to 1.5°C to begin with, but multiple studies have concluded that even these will not be met, with shortfalls in GHG emissions reductions anticipated to be greater than 20% for the US and greater than 10% for the EU and UK. This is a dismal scenario. A brief analysis of the causes is thus in order.

Over-reliance on market economics

The US Inflation Reduction Act, passed last year, aimed to swiftly decarbonise the US economy by providing billions of dollars in new or expanded tax credits for low-emissions technologies. It aimed to mobilise huge private sector investment in multiple clean energy projects, and boosting private sector confidence to pursue decarbonisation projects, but many energy projects are now on hold or abandoned. Investors attribute this to high interest rates, supply chain constraints, ambiguity in tax rules, and the unpredictable nature of regulatory and government processes. Such de-

lays and cancellations despite IRA subsidies clearly indicate that incentives work only with an enabling ecosystem, having cogent policies, clear-cut legislation, and efficient regulatory framework. This is true everywhere.

Moonshot approach

The moonshot approach refers to announcing unrealistic targets, presuming scientific advancements, substantiating with complex modelling of decarbonisation pathways, and obfuscating the ground realities of the short to medium term, with a detrimental impact on investor confidence and achievement of NDCs. To illustrate, the US set a target that 50% of all new vehicle sales by 2030 must be electric. But, with sales from the last quarter being less than 8%, GM and Ford have put on hold significant investments in EV production facilities. In September 2023, the UK backtracked on key climate policies, such as the 2030 phase-out of new petrol/ diesel cars and the 2035 phase-out of gas boilers, undermining investor confidence.

Double standards and backtracking

At Glasgow, India was criticised for insisting on “phasing down” rather than “phasing out” of coal. Just a few months later, the Russia-Ukraine war disrupted global energy markets, leading to a volte face by the West. In 2022, the US reached record highs in oil and gas production as well as exports. It plans to increase its LNG export capacity by more than 40% by 2026. Likewise, the EU is making significant investments in LNG terminals and fossil gas pipelines and the UK is providing support for oil and gas extraction in the North Sea. These rising fossil fuel investments risk carbon lock-in and act as a dampener for

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The US Inflation Reduction Act, passed last year, aimed to swiftly decarbonise the US economy by providing billions of dollars in new or expanded tax credits for low-emissions technologies. It aimed to mobilise huge private sector investment in multiple clean energy projects, and boosting private sector confidence to pursue decarbonisation projects, but many energy projects are now on hold or abandoned

a clean energy transition.

“Believe in the science”

This is postulated by developed nations in climate conferences while pushing for Net Zero targets. In the process, the focus shifts to long-term

deep decarbonisation technologies, neglecting short- to medium-term initiatives required to meet NDCs. For instance, the UK offers support to green hydrogen and CCS projects but does not extend such support to industrial electrification and has insufficient funding for households’ energy efficiency improvements. Consequently, its Climate Change Committee found that the UK has credible policies for only 20% of the emissions reductions required to meet its Sixth Carbon Budget, which extends beyond 2030. NDCs, and even net zero, require calibrated and coordinated progress on multiple areas, step by step, year on year, focusing on technologies that are field-proven or nearing commercialisation.

Ignoring the critical role of community

Developed nations direct their development finance on capacity-building within developing economies but ignore the need for behavioural and societal change within their own nations. For NDC fulfilment, public transport has to become a mainstream option, buildings have to be energy & resource efficient, sustainable farming adopted—all of which require a community buy-in and change in consumption patterns. Will the energy emission-intensive consumptive life style change?

Ignoring fundamentals

Climate action needs global effort. This has several aspects—most significantly, climate finance, technology transfer, and supply chains. Where is the \$100 billion pledged annually by 2020, though billions have been spent on arms? The IMF estimates fossil fuel subsidies were \$7 trillion globally in 2022. The only tangible outcome of COP27 was that the Loss and Damage Fund remains under discussion. The

G20 in September 2023 targeted tripling of renewable energy capacity globally, but China and the developed countries are dominating and constraining the supply chain for this.

Technology transfer is more about technical assistance and private sector initiatives, rather than multilateral programs of joint collaborative research. Apart from ethical issues of reneging on commitments and persisting with inequities, it goes against business logic, as the benefits of collaboration between developed and developing nations are well-established, with the latter providing the volumes which drive down the costs of transition. There is another disturbing trend, which some activists call “the new green imperialism”. Developed nations are seeking to use renewable energy resources of developing countries to manufacture green hydrogen and import the same to decarbonise their ‘hard to abate’ sectors, thereby creating new inequities in energy access.

Climate change is correlated to global carbon stock, hence, an integrated global view of decarbonisation and action has to be taken. The onus is on the developed nations, although there are many lessons for us too. We end with this quote by Paul Polman, “Working together on solving something requires a high level of humility and a high level of self-awareness”.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer.

The article was originally published by Financial Express

Father's Medieval Diktat: 'No School After 10th'

Farooq Shah

Haifa, a 10th-grade student, returned to school after a 20-day absence for a family wedding, causing her to miss valuable study time. Throughout her absence, some classmates texted her about falling behind in her studies. Despite her desire to return, Haifa's father, who holds significant authority in the family, did not prioritize sending her back to school. Her sister, also in the same grade, appears more resigned to their father's decisions. He has firmly dictated that the sisters are only permitted to attend school until the 10th grade.

Frequently withdrawing into her own thoughts, Haifa's anxieties are becoming more valid as the 0th-grade board exams are just round the corner—a few months away after the ensuing winter. Despite being a bright student, Haifa is uncertain about what the future holds for her once she completes the 10th-grade exam.

Haifa consistently mentions her aspiration to pursue a career in the medical field whenever I inquire about her future ambitions. However, she worries that her father could potentially disrupt her education before she finishes.

Given the strong religious bent of mind, it's quite predictable why Haifa's father strongly opposes conventional schooling. He frequently encourages his daughters to prioritize religious education instead. According to Haifa, he has already arranged for them to pursue religious studies like becoming a Hafiz or a Molvi Fazil, without acknowledging Haifa's aptitude or preference for formal education.

"Listen closely, my daughters," Haifa's stern father tells them. "Earthly knowledge won't save our souls in the hereafter, but it is through religious teachings that we find our path to everlasting salvation." Haifa appears driven because her father's authority and the prevailing atmosphere within his community and beyond have shaped a mindset that makes it challenging for a young girl to differentiate between right and wrong. Consequently, she feels overwhelmed when trying to assert her right to education.

Haifa's mother supports her daughter's uninterrupted pursuit of studies, yet her pleas are overshadowed by the dominant influence her husband holds within the family. With such an extreme mindset, the aspirations of both sisters to create a significant impact in their lives may have already been shattered.



Another factor driving the preference for religious education over formal schooling for Haifa is her belonging to a Gujjar family, well-known for their traditional and stringent customs that often oppose extended education for girls. Typically, men within the tribe resist allowing females to pursue prolonged schooling. They commonly engage in multiple marriages, resulting in families that often have fewer than ten members. Haifa's father, having married twice, has eight children—four daughters and an equal number of sons. Two of the daughters have already been married off at a young age.

It's possible that Haifa, upon reaching the minimum age for marriage, could face a fate similar to that of her cousins. Gujjars are also known for practicing child marriages, a custom that often evades the reach of the legal system. Such a situation would serve as the final blow to her aspirations of pursuing a career as a medical professional.

Gujjars, classified as a backward community and safeguarded by reservation rights, put Haifa and similar girls at a disadvantage. They could otherwise pursue education without significant concerns about financial constraints or even academic merit. Haifa, already excelling academically, faces additional hurdles as she could potentially navigate competitive exams more smoothly if given the opportunity for regular uninterrupted study.

Haifa's potential to become a medical professional might be determined by her father's rigid beliefs, but the existing educational system also plays a role in compelling bright girls like her to abandon their education prematurely.

Due to the lack of available data on the current operations of religious schools in Jammu and Kashmir, it's incredibly challenging to estimate the enrollment of boys and girls in these institutions. These schools, operating without oversight from education boards, have never been subject to government inspections to evaluate the quality of education provided by their teachers.

Aside from prominent religious schools like Darul-aloams, there are numerous smaller institutions called Darasgahslacking even the most basic

facilities to accommodate as few as fifty students. Housed in cramped, poorly constructed rooms, the primary focus remains on rote memorization of Quranic Surahs, often under the supervision of Molvis who may lack proper qualifications to teach the Quran effectively.

As a result, the operation of these schools by unauthorized individuals remained unchecked. Exploiting this gap, numerous individuals have capitalized on the situation by independently managing such educational institutions. In Kashmir, it's a frequent occurrence to witness groups of bearded Molvis with receipt books in their hands visiting households, seeking financial support to sustain these schools.

A former official from the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) informed me that he had suggested to the government the idea of incorporating all religious schools in the region into the Board's oversight. In this proposal, these schools would be required to integrate additional subjects such as Science, Mathematics, English, and History & Civics into their curriculum alongside religious teachings.

Students would then have the opportunity to sit for their 10th and 12th

examinations through the pre-existing National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) board, obtaining certificates that could encourage them to pursue further education. This approach aimed to instill a sense of responsibility among the teachers and liberate them from narrow educational perspectives.

This would also prompt individuals like Haifa's father to understand that there aren't segregated schools solely dedicated to religious teachings, as the boundary between the two types of education would begin to fade.

Given the government of Jammu and Kashmir's initiative to digitize student records through a unique student permanent education number, it now becomes the government's exclusive duty to embrace each and every boy and girl into a formal educational system. This system should ensure uninterrupted access to education for every child, aligning with the education rights outlined in the Indian constitution.

Amidst the colorful slogans advocating the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative, Haifa's story unveils a stark reality—its implementation seems fraught with deficiencies. The scheme lacks a robust mechanism that could safeguard the futures of girls like Haifa. As her narrative demonstrates, there exists no assurance or protective measure for girls facing similar challenges.

It's imperative that the law intervenes decisively. Individuals such as Haifa's father, who hinder their daughters' educational paths, must be identified, held accountable under the law, and dissuaded from perpetuating such detrimental practices. The true success of initiatives like BBBP lies not merely in slogans but in the tangible actions that protect and ensure the education and rights of every girl, securing their rightful place in society.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

The girl's name in the write-up is a pseudonym used to preserve her identity

Why It is Important to Move a Muscle in Winters

Ruth Lowry & Jo Barton

As winter descends on the northern hemisphere and the temperature drops and daylight hours shorten, many people may want to spend more time indoors. And those of us under lockdown for the second time may feel even less inclined to get outside and exercise. But staying indoors may have unintended health consequences, due to both a lack of physical activity and exposure to daylight.

Being physically active all year long has many benefits to both physical and mental health. Exercise may even counter some of the negative effects winter weather can have on our energy levels and mood.

Research shows people exercise for an average of eight minutes less during the cooler months. People also drop other activities they do during warmer months, such as active travelling. Light intensity activity (such as slow walking and housework) is shown to decrease during the winter, while time spent sitting and sleeping increased.

But, despite decreases in light intensity activity and sleeping more, researchers did not find any differences in terms of sleep quality, nor did it find a drop in moderate and vigorous activities – such as planned exercise classes or walking the dog – which people still did, despite the weather. A pre-print (not yet peer-reviewed) study also suggests that activity levels were lower during the first spring lockdown. This could mean people may be even less active this winter.

There are many reasons we may lose our motivation to exercise during the winter months. In the winter, low levels of ambient light coupled with shorter days reduces exposure to vitamin D. This causes us to feel tired or fatigued. People often experience disrupted sleep during winter months as well, further contributing to low energy levels.

Seasonal mood disturbances may also



make it difficult to find the motivation to get up and move. Many people (particularly women) experience low mood as the weather gets colder. Some even develop mental health disorders such as seasonal affective disorder (SAD), in which a person experiences symptoms of depression during the winter months.

The reasons why we exercise can also affect our motivation levels. For example, motivation is shown to waver if the primary focus of our exercise is on improving health and body image, rather than exercising for enjoyment and accomplishment. Research also shows that people who exercise outdoors all year round

are better at finding the time to stick to their routine, and are more motivated by their enjoyment, or the challenge of their exercise compared to those who are only active during warmer months. So it's easy to see how a person's mood can lead to a more sedentary lifestyle.

Exercise benefits

The benefits of engaging in regular physical activity are widely reported for physical health – including reductions in weight, coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, strokes and certain types of cancer. It's also associated with greater

immune function.

Physical activity is also important for wellbeing. It's been shown to reduce fatigue and enhance job satisfaction, optimism, self-esteem and better stress management. Exercise can also be used effectively to treat mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety SAD, and promotes positive mood.

Though winter weather might not always allow it, exercising outdoors is also great at reducing mental fatigue and stress, improving wellbeing, life satisfaction and happiness. Adolescents in particular benefit mentally from being in natural spaces. Blue spaces – such as

coastal regions and inland waterways – also have similar restorative benefits for mental health.

Outdoor exercise also provides more opportunities for social interaction, which, if allowed, is important for our health and wellbeing during this winter lockdown. Exercising outdoors in natural light is also linked to improvements in sleep quality, physical health and wellbeing.

To achieve these mental and physical benefits, it's important to make sure you're getting enough exercise. The UK's NHS recommends a weekly health target of 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity (or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity), which can easily be broken down into smaller chunks of ten minutes throughout the week. Moderate activity is enough to raise your heart rate, make you feel warmer and breathe faster. An easy way to tell is that you can still talk but find it difficult to sing. Two days of the week should also focus on strengthening activities.

Though it can sometimes be hard to find the motivation to exercise, carrying an activity monitor (wearable accelerometer) or phone app that records activity (such as step count) can motivate and enable people to set and achieve goals. Committing to activity can also be easier if you have someone to exercise with. Increasing the challenge – such as the number of activity sessions, the intensity (such as walking speed or weight lifted) or the time spent in each session – can also increase fitness and strength.

Thankfully, there are plenty of ways to be active during the winter. In addition to sport and forms of exercise, taking active transport (walking and cycling to work or school), or doing chores will all contribute. Of most importance is to break up time sitting with movement and activity outside, in daylight, to ensure you profit from the additional health benefits.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Winter Is Here: Skincare Essentials For Travellers

Shahnaz Husain

If you are fond of the cold weather, traveling during winter might be one of the ways to enjoy your favorite holiday destination.

Winter makes your skin really dry and travelling makes it tired. The situation is often worse for travelers, with cold weather bringing their own set of troubles.

Between the dry, cooler air, long travel, and all the changes in the schedule, diet, and environment, it's important to pack products that will moisturize and repair your skin in order to keep you looking your best.

Packing beauty essentials for a winter vacation can be quite a hassle. Maintaining a healthy skincare routine becomes even more essential when you're on the move, and Here are the skincare essentials you'll need to deal with wintry weather if you're travelling.

When you are heading on a winter vacation -----stuffing a variety of sunscreen, Lip Balm, Moisturizers, and hair styling products into your suitcase will make your journey comfortable for your outwardly outlook and refreshing your vital organs.

Winter is harsh on your skin if you are travelling to snow bound areas /mountainous hills with family in winter vacation then your skin care regime is required to adapt to the changing seasons

Apart from passport, aadhar cards



tickets, credit cards, which are absolutely essential travel documents , you will need the means to make yourself attractive, while traveling. Even though it is hard to look fashionable .

Think about travel essentials and how to limit your grooming needs, so that you look pleasing and enjoy your trip. Traveling light is an advantage, so you need items that are compact and portable. Get yourself a spacious shoulder bag and two small, plastic lined cases, for your toilet and make-up. Your beauty aids should be within easy reach, so that you can freshen up

your make-up and alight from your journey looking attractive and self-confident. Searching for a lipstick or comb in a cluttered handbag can really test your patience.

A short hairdo that you can just brush and arrange is good, while for long hair, take along a headband and hair clips, to keep your hair tidy. Remember to take a scarf along to protect your hair from over-exposure to the sun, as well as from wind and dust. You will need it if you are out motoring, boating or even walking by the seaside or hills.

The make-up items and clothes

you carry depend on what your trip entails. If you are holidaying in a big city and expect to meet people, you will need a few good clothes and accessories, for dining out. Take a few in-between outfits that are neither too casual, nor too dressy. You will also need make-up cosmetics for the night. The lighting at night demands more colour, so include darker shades of lipstick, blush-on, eye-shadow and mascara. A hair-piece can provide instant glamour. Don't forget to take your perfume, one or two good accessories and a neutral evening purse that goes

Packing beauty essentials for a winter vacation can be quite a hassle. Maintaining a healthy skincare routine becomes even more essential when you're on the move, and Here are the skincare essentials you'll need to deal with wintry weather if you're travelling.

with your dressy outfits. These will help to add the finishing touches.

If you are on a sightseeing trip, or on a vacation by the sea or mountains, the emphasis will be on comfort. Casual wrinkle-free clothes, light weight shoes and sunglasses will be needed. On a vacation, one probably needs to carry more skin care cosmetics and fewer make-up aids. An anti-tan sunscreen or sun block would be good. The effects of sun exposure are greater by the waterside, or near snow, because water and snow are reflective surfaces. By the sea, avoid sun-exposure between noon and 3 p.m. Apply broad spectrum sunscreen when out in the sun, not only on the face, but on all exposed areas. Apply the sunscreen 20 minutes before

going out. If you are out in the sun for more than an hour, re-apply the sunscreen. Use high SPF of 30 and above for sensitive skin.

Apart from sunscreen, you need skin and hair care essentials, like cleanser, moisturizer, leave-on conditioner and hair serum. For your make-up, carry powder compact, eye-pencil, kajal stick and lipsticks that are suitable for day wear. Perhaps, a lip gloss will do. By the beach, you need make up products that are "waterproof" or "long lasting" and provide a matte finish.

You will also need pressed powder (compact) and powder blush-on. Remember to take a few tissues. If you have oily skin, or the weather is hot and humid, pre-moistened tissues are what you need. Carry them in your handbag when you go out, to clean and refresh your skin. Apart from these, take a deodorant and talcum powder.

Travel adds a wonderful dimension to one's life and personality. It enriches our experience and broadens our outlook. Travel also means a time that is refreshing and renewing. There is nothing more enjoyable than getting away from everyday and unwind. If you have taken care of your travel needs, all you have to do is relax and enjoy!

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called Herbal Queen of India

'AI Can Be Used To Generate Volumes Of Misleading Content On Critical Health Topics'

Press Trust Of India

A new study has shown that currently accessible AI tools can be used to produce over 100 misleading blogs, 20 deceptive images, and a convincing deep-fake video about vaping and vaccines in just over an hour that can be used to spread health disinformation.

The video could even be adapted into 40 languages, thereby amplifying its potential harm, said the medical researchers from Flinders University, Australia.

"Our study demonstrates how easy it is to use currently accessible AI tools to generate large volumes of coercive and targeted misleading content on critical health topics, complete with hundreds of fabricated clinician and patient testimonials and fake, yet convincing, attention-grabbing titles," said Bradley Menz, a researcher at the university and first author of the study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Internal Medicine.

The researchers investigated OpenAI's GPT Playground, a large language model (LLM), for its capacity to facilitate the generation of large volumes of health-related disinformation.

The LLM is an AI algorithm trained on massive textual datasets and thus, is capable of recognising, translating, predicting and generating textual content, which are known as natural language processing tasks.

The research team also ex-

plored publicly available generative AI platforms, like DALL-E 2 and HeyGen, for their studies.

Using GPT Playground, the researchers generated 102 distinct blog

cerning scenarios, the study findings underscore an urgent need for robust AI vigilance, the researchers said.

The findings also highlighted



articles, containing more than 17,000 words of disinformation related to vaccines and vaping, in just 65 minutes, they reported in their study.

Further, in under five minutes, the team generated a concerning deepfake video featuring a health professional promoting disinformation about vaccines, using AI avatar technology and natural language processing, they said. The video could then be manipulated in over 40 different languages.

Along with illustrating con-

the important role that health-care professionals can play in proactively minimising and monitoring risks related to AI-generated misleading health information, they said.

"The implications of our findings are clear: society currently stands at the cusp of an AI revolution, yet in its implementation governments must enforce regulations to minimise the risk of malicious use of these tools to mislead the community," said Menz.

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Qazigund

TWO COVER SYSTEM
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
FOR NABARD WORKS

NIT No. 81 Of R&B/QAZIGUND/ 2023-24/E-TENDERING/7468-82 DATED:17-11-2023

Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division QAZIGUND on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, invites percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities(B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: -

S. No	Name of Work	Tendered Cost including GST @ 18% (Rs in lacs.)				Earnest Money (@ 2% of Adv. Cost) (in Rs)	Time of completion For Construction work	Time and date of opening of tenders Online (Technical Bid)	Class of Contract or
		Construction Part	Maintenance Part (inclusive of GST @ 18%)	Total cost of work (inclusive of GST)	Cost of document (in Rs)				
1.	Upgradation of PanzathShampora Drinen road, including PanzathNagbal Link, Wanpora to Shankerpora Road, National Highway to Levдора Link and Gagerdangji New Colony Link.	636.79	63.68	700.47	8500/-	1494000/-	03 Years	14/12/2023 at 11:00	AAV Class

M.H Account = NABARD RIDF-XXIX
Position of AAA = Accorded by the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Kashmir vide order No.-CE/R&B/K/AA/33 of 2023-24
Dated: 27-09-2023 under endorsement No. CE/R&B/K/16493-96 Dated: 27-09-2023 and Sanctioned by NABARD authorities vide No. NB/J&KRO/SPD/811/Sanction letter /2023-24 Dated: 16-10-2023 figuring at SR.No.(53)
Position of TS = Accorded vide Order No:- CE(R&B) SK/TS/03 of 2023-24 Dated:13-11-2023

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17/11/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	20/11/2023 from 11.00 AM.
3	Date, Time and Place of Pre Bid meeting	21/11/2023 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department South Kashmir Dak Banglow, Khanabal, Anantnag.
4	Bid submission Start Date	22/11/2023 from 11.00 AM.
5	Bid Submission End Date	13/12/2023 upto 4.00 PM.
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14/12/2023 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department South Kashmir Dak Banglow, Khanabal, Anantnag.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division QAZIGUND (Tender inviting authority) (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt. 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department South Kashmir Dak Banglow, Khanabal, Anantnag. (Tender receiving Authority).

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department South Kashmir Dak Banglow, Khanabal, Anantnag. (Tender Receiving Authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the LI as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year shall be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department South Kashmir Dak Banglow, Khanabal, Anantnag (tender receiving authority).

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

7. The earnest money /Performance security shall be forfeited, if-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

8.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov. into account bid submission process.

8.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

8.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

8.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

8.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

8.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

9. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

10. Scanned copy of Cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department South Kashmir Dak Banglow, Khanabal, Anantnag (Tender Receiving Authority) must be uploaded with the Technical bid documents for the work. After opening of financial bids, the lowest bidder shall submit the Performance Security in the form of CDR/BG/FDR within 03 Days in the Office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department South Kashmir Dak Banglow, Khanabal, Anantnag. Failure to do so shall render the first lowest successful bidder non-responsive. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD (earnest money) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

11. Bidders should quote in percentage below/ the percentage above or at par at the bottom of the BOQ Percentage Template for the work.

12. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

13. Price escalation and Taxes:- Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

14. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

15. For the NABARD project, the NABARD guidelines shall be strictly followed.

No. 7468-82
DIPK-12452/23 DATED:18-11-2023

SD/= Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND

Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Corporation Office Of The Executive Engineer Generation Division LJHP Gantamulla Baramulla

Email: xeneljhp@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE No. 01

Due to nil response to this office E-NIT No. 13 of 2023-24 dated 27-10-2023 issued vide this office No. GD/LJHP/1281-87 dated: 27-10-2023 for Recapitalization of existing Log Boom by means of replacement of damaged logs by available Flume logs at Mohura Power House stores (Complete Job) (ID: 2023_SPDC_234955_1), the critical dates are re-scheduled as under:

S.No	Activity	Date already tendered	Dates as per new schedule
1.	Date of Issue of tender notice	27.10.2023	27.10.2023
2.	Bid document download start date	27.10.2023 to 17.11.2023	27.10.2023 to 28.11.2023
3.	Bid uploading start date	27.10.2023	27.10.2023
4.	Bid uploading last date	17.11.2023	28.11.2023
5.	Last date for receipt of hard copies of techno commercial (RFQ) (one original plus one copy)	18.11.2023	29.11.2023
6.	Opening of techno commercial bids (RFQ)	20.11.2023	30.11.2023

All the terms and conditions shall remain the same.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
Generation Division LJHP,
Gantamulla Baramulla

NO: GD/LJHP/1469-74
DIPK-NB-4300/23
DATED: - 18.11.2023

AI Value To Be Unlocked With Cloud Adoption At Scale: Report



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Nearly two in three financial services firms have started using artificial intelligence (AI) and look to utilise it across the full value chain in the next two years, says a report.

A Capgemini report released on Friday highlighted that implementing cloud at scale is critical to harvest the full value of AI investments and the financial services firms have seen limited impact of AI due to low-scale adoption.

"One-in-two banks and insurers have not moved their core business applications to the cloud," the report said.

As many as 91 per cent of banks and insurance companies have now initiated their cloud journey, a significant increase from 2020, when only 37 per cent of firms had embarked on their cloud transformations.

However, this high rate and its corresponding investment do not translate to effective cloud adoption at scale. More than 50 per cent of firms surveyed have only moved a minimal portion of their core business applications to the cloud, the report said.

The value of AI and Gen AI can be better realized through the right cloud adoption at scale, hence banks will need to prioritize cloud journey for

fintech growth, a senior Capgemini executive said.

Capgemini Industry Platform Leader for Banking India Anuj Agarwal said, "Today, we see FinTechs specializing in numerous areas that leverage AI to add significant value to banks. Examples of such areas include automation, personalized customer experience, better mitigation of financial crime and risk management."

India has one of the highest AI skill penetration levels in the world, has been seeing significant investment in AI, as well as demand for AI solutions, and with the government push towards a digital India, will also have immense data availability, which will help in India's fintech revolution, he added.

Agarwal said, elaborating on the inaugural Capgemini Research Institute's World Cloud Report on financial services, "Through our research, we found that banks are generally struggling to offer clients the desired value and personalization that they seek. Hence it is critical for them to offer the right Customer Experience and improve their operational efficiency, to plug this expectation gap."

In wealth management, over half (60 per cent) cite benefits in relying on cloud-enabled fraud detection techniques to make data-driven risk-management decisions.

Case Against Jamiat Ulama-I-Hind, Others For Providing 'Forged' Halal Certificates; JUH Trashes Allegations

Press Trust Of India

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh Police have registered a case in capital Lucknow against prominent Muslim body Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and a few other organisations for allegedly exploiting people's religious sentiments to boost sales by providing "forged" halal certificates.

The case was registered at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on Friday on the basis of a complaint lodged by Shailendra Kumar Sharma, a resident of Motijheel Colony in Aishbagh.

The case has been registered under sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), 298 (uttering words, etc, with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings), 384 (extortion), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 467 (forgery of valuable security, will, etc), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using as genuine a forged document or electronic record) and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the IPC.

The case has been registered against entities such as the Halal India Private Limited Chennai, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust Delhi, Halal Council of India Mumbai, Jamiat Ulama Maharashtra and others for allegedly exploiting religious sentiments to boost sales by providing halal certificates to customers of a specific religion, the UP government said in a state-

ment on Saturday. Citing the FIR, the statement said that the said companies allegedly issued forged halal certificates to various companies for financial gains, fos - tering



not only social animosity but also violating public trust.

In a statement, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust termed the allegations as "baseless" and said it will take "necessary legal measures to counter such misinformation".

"We adhere to government regulations, as emphasised in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry notification, requiring all halal certification bodies to be registered by NABCB (National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies under Quality Council of India), a milestone that Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust has achieved," it said.

"It is also a matter of choice of individuals and manufacturers preferring to certain certifications for their own satisfaction based upon the credentials which the certifi-

ing authorities enjoy. It saves a large number of consumers from using products which they do not want for a variety of reasons and ensures availability of need-based products in the market.

"Those who do not want to use such products are free not to use them," it further said.

The UP government statement said the complainant has raised concerns over a potential large-scale conspiracy, indicating attempts to decrease the sale of products from companies lacking the halal certificate, which is illegal. There is an apprehension that this unfair advantage is being passed on to anti-social and anti-national elements.

The issuance of halal certificates for vegetarian products like oil, soap, toothpaste, and honey, where no such certification is necessary, suggests a deliberate criminal conspiracy targeting a specific community and its products, it said.

The complainant further alleged that, under the guise of religion, "unrestrained propaganda" is being pursued within a particular section of the society to discourage the use of products lacking a halal certificate. This, in turn, harms the business interests of other communities.

The complainant also expressed concern over these individuals amassing disproportionate profits and potentially channelling funds towards supporting terrorist organisations and anti-national endeavours, the statement said.

Dell, HP, Foxconn, Flextronics Among 27 Firms Granted Approval Under IT Hardware PLI Scheme



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday said 27 companies, including Dell, HP, Flextronics, and Foxconn, have been granted approval under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware.

The scheme, which covers laptops, tablets, PCs, servers and ultra-small form factor devices, is expected to fuel incremental investments of about Rs 3,000 crore.

The nod to the applicants comes at a time when India is wooing IT hardware players with policy sweeteners and incentive schemes, making a determined push to position itself as a global powerhouse for hi-tech manufacturing.

"I am happy to announce that 27 companies have been approved for the PLI IT hardware scheme. About 95 per cent of these...23 companies are ready to start their manufacturing from day-zero," Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav said at a briefing.

Four companies will start their production in the next 90 days. "These 27 applications will

lead to investments of about Rs 3,000 crore...The most important thing is that the value chain is shifting to India," the minister said.

The approvals will position India as a big force in manufacturing of IT hardware, encompassing PCs, servers, laptops, and tablets, Vaishnav said.

Among the big names that have been granted approval under the IT hardware scheme are Dell, Foxconn, HP, Flextronics, VVDN, and Optimus. Other applicants that have received the green signal include Padgett Electronics, SOJO Manufacturing Services, Goodworth, Neolync, Syrma SGS, Mega Networks, Panache Digilife, and ITI Ltd, among others.

To a question on the absence of certain large names from the list, the minister said that some are evaluating and making their plans and "it is just the question of time". He, however, did not take specific names.

The scheme will lead to additional production of Rs 3.5 lakh crore and create direct employment for 50,000 people and indirect employment for 1.5 lakh people, the minister said.

Amazon Lays Off Hundreds In Its Alexa Division As It Plows Resources Into AI

Associated Press

NEW YORK: Amazon is cutting hundreds of jobs in the unit that handles its popular voice assistant Alexa as it plows more resources into artificial intelligence.

In a note to employees on Friday, Daniel Rausch, Amazon's vice president of Alexa and Fire TV, wrote that the company is eliminating certain roles because it is ditching some initiatives.

"As we continue to invent, we're shifting some of our efforts to better align with our business priorities, and what we know matters most to customers which includes maximizing our resources and efforts focused on generative AI," Rausch wrote.

He said "several hundred" positions would be cut but did not give a more precise figure. Seattle-based Amazon is in

fierce competition with other tech companies rushing to capitalize on the generative AI craze. The company has been implementing a host of AI initiatives in the past few months, from infusing the technology into customer reviews to providing services that allow developers to build their own AI tools on its AWS cloud infrastructure.

In September, Amazon unveiled an update to Alexa that infuses it with more generative AI features.

The job cuts announced on Friday will impact employees in the U.S., Canada and India.

It follows more recent layoffs in Amazon's gaming and music teams, and also adds to the 27,000 employees the company laid off during the later parts of last year and earlier this year. Amazon's Alexa unit was also impacted by those cuts. (AP)

Reserve Bank Of India Permits Banks To Open Current Account For Export Proceeds

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday permitted banks to open additional current accounts for export proceeds in addition to special rupee vostro accounts with a view to providing greater operational flexibility to exporters.

To provide greater operational flexibility to exporters, banks maintaining special rupee vostro accounts as per the provisions of the RBI circular dated July 11, 2022, are permitted to open an additional special current account for its exporter constituent exclusively for settlement of their export transactions, RBI said in a notification.

In July 2022, the RBI had

asked banks to put in place additional arrangements for export and import transactions in Indian rupees in view of the increasing interest of the global trading community in the domestic currency.

"In order to promote the growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of the global trading community in INR, it has been decided to put in place an additional arrangement for invoicing, pay-



ment, and settlement of exports/imports in INR," it said. India has been trying to promote rupee trade following the Russia-Ukraine war and the sanctions imposed by the West.

In July 2022, the RBI decided to allow the settlement of India's international trade in rupee. Accordingly, authorised Indian banks must open and maintain special rupee vostro accounts of the partner trading country's banks.

SKUAST-K Kick-Starts 3 Six-Week ESDPs On Vegetable Production, Vermicomposting



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir commenced three six-week Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programs (ESDP) on the latest vegetable production and vermicomposting techniques in Ganderbal and Baramulla districts.

SKUAST-K's Division of Vegetable Science, Faculty of Horticulture, organised the comprehensive skill program under the sponsorship of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to provide unemployed youth of the twin districts with essential skills and knowledge for scientific cultivation of vegetables and vermicomposting techniques.

About 25 unemployed youth, entrepreneurs and farmers are participating in the ESDP on 'Soilless Cultivation of Vegetable Crops: An Emerging Technology for Enhancing Income of

Farmers", which kick-started at the Lar area of Ganderbal district.

Dr Syed Berjes Zehra, training coordinator and assistant professor, Division of Vegetable Science, SKUAST-K, briefed that the program will provide essential skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to kickstart and grow successful businesses in the field of soilless cultivation of vegetable crops. She also explained that the program will provide participants with in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience in cutting-edge agricultural practices such as hydroponics, aquaponics, and aeroponics.

The second six-week ESDP titled 'Scientific Vegetable Cultivation for Improving Yield' was inaugurated at the Repora village of Ganderbal district. 25 participants from the village and nearby areas are participating in the programme to gain a comprehensive understanding of Scientific Vegetable cultivation.

Kashmir Moving Towards 'Purple Revolution': Dir Agri

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Saturday visited S.M farm Allawpora to take stock of the overall agriculture scenario including the status of Lavender, rosemary, and geranium like crops at the farm.

He moved to different blocks of the farm and held interaction with the technical staff regarding various on going activities.

Speaking to the farm manage-

ment, Director said that lavender, geranium, rosemary like crops are becoming more popular in the valley therefore departmental farms have to play a lead role in the development of these Aromatic, Medicinal, decorative, culinary herbs. He said Kashmir is moving towards a "Purple Revolution" as more and more young educated farmers are inter-

ested in taking these crops on commercial lines. He said the crops like Lavender, rosemary, geranium are adding new dimensions to the overall agriculture ecosystem in the region.

Pertinently lavender is used to extract oil, which is then utilized to create products like soaps, cosmetics, fragrances, air fresheners and medications.

He said that from the last few years farmers in the districts of Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal and Kupwara have started lavender cul-



tivation under the guidance and technical support of the agriculture department. He said that under HADP special project has been approved by the government for the promotion of Aromatic and medicinal crops like lavender. He asked the farmers to come forward and take benefit from the department interventions.

NABARD Holds Workshop On Agri Clinics & Agri Business Scheme



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: NABARD in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (SKUAST) Kulgam conducted a workshop on Central Scheme for establishment of Agri Clinics and Agri Business Centers (ACABC) at KVK Pombay Kulgam.

The scheme is aimed to support agriculture development, besides creating gainful employment for agriculture graduates and extending extension services to the farmers.

The workshop was inaugurated by DDM, NABARD, Rouf Zargar in presence of Project Coordinator KVK Kulgam Dr Manzoor Ganai and Lead District Manager Abdul Rashid besides the District Nodal officers from Agriculture and Horticulture department.

A large number of agriculture graduates, progressive farmers and members of various FPOs of the district attended the programme.

Giving the details of the scheme, Zargar said that the scheme aims to

provide business opportunity to unemployed agriculture graduates and the doorstep delivery of agricultural extension services to farmers to cater their local needs and affordability.

These Clinics & business centers shall provide expert advice and services to farmers on various technologies. Besides, requisite 60 days training shall be provided to applicants free of cost by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), through Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs).

After the completion of training, the applicants will be provided bank loan from 20 lakh to 1 crore (individual or group) to start the unit.

NABARD will channelize the 36% subsidy to general category applicants and 44 per cent to applicants belonging to scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) and north east, hilly states.

Interested applicants can call toll-free number 1800-425-1556 or apply online on acabcmis.gov website.

Dr Ashraf Ganaie Bereaved, Mother Passes Away

Observer News Service

Pulwama- Mst Taja Begum W/O Late Mohammad Shaban Ganaie of Dangarpora, Shadimarg (Pulwama) passed away on 16th November 2023. She was laid to rest at her ancestral graveyard at Dangarpora on 17th November 2023. Hundreds of people joined the Jinaza prayers of the deceased and prayed for the departed soul.

Mst Taja Begum was mother of Dr Mohammad Ashraf Ganaie, Professor of Endocrinology & Metabolism,

SKIMS Soura. She is survived by four sons and a daughter.

Congregational Fateah Khwani of the deceased will be convened on 20th November 2023 (Monday) at 11.00 am at the ancestral graveyard at Dangarpora, Shadimarg to be followed by day-long condolence and prayer meeting at the residence of the bereaved family at Dangarpora.

Dr Mohammad Ashraf Ganaie will also receive condolences in Srinagar at his residence 82-A, Masjid Lane, Al-Farooq Colony, Sanatnagar on 21st November 2023.

75% Road Accidents In 17 Months Caused By Over-Speeding In Doda: Officials



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: As many as 112 people lost their lives in 257 road accidents since July last year in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, officials said on Saturday, attributing 75 per cent of these accidents to over-speeding and rash driving.

This information was shared at a meeting convened by Deputy Commissioner of Doda Harvinder Singh to assess the traffic worthiness of road infrastructure, transport facilities and the overall safety of commuters in the district following a bus accident on Wednesday that claimed 39 lives.

Of the 257 accidents, 25 per cent occurred due to roads and mechanical failure, the officials said, adding directions were passed at the meeting to have a road safety audit of all the roads by a technical committee within 20 days.

Singh, who is also the chairman of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) and Regional Transport Authority (RTA), instructed stakeholder agencies to coordinate and complete the mapping of roads within 15 days to create an integrated map.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed

the implementation of the road safety plan and the Integrated Road Safety Database and Electronic Detailed Accident Report, the officials said.

They said it was decided by the DRSC to declare spots having less than 100-metre visibility as black spots.

Additionally, the DC directed for installation of speed limit sign boards and crash barriers with glow tape along roads to ensure a safer commuting environment.

The meeting decided to establish small traffic booths and install CCTV cameras and cat's eye equipment along the roads, the officials said, adding the direction to dismantle the encroachment along the highway and other roads were also passed.

The officials said strict directions were passed to establish 'nakas' (checkpoints) in sensitive areas to stop over-speeding and overcracking.

The DC also directed the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) to enforce the compulsory installation of CCTV cameras in every passenger vehicle, particularly in minibuses and buses. Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police, Jammu zone, Anand Jain visited Wednesday's accident site at Assar.

Shoaib Shawl Among "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow"

Invited To Attend 54th International Film Festival Of India

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, has selected Shoaib Shawl, from Jammu & Kashmir, among the "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" (75 CMOT) to attend the upcoming 54th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

He will participate in the opening ceremony of the festival as a special guest of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur.

The "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" has been launched to identify, encourage and nurture young creative talents from across various aspects of filmmaking, by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

In an invitation to Shoaib the NFDC wrote: "you have been selected among the "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" to attend the 54th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. Your selection was made by an eminent jury composed of the stalwarts of the Indian Film Industry. We hereby invite you to join us for the upcoming 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa between 18th to 26th November 2023 and colour yourself in the carnival of cinema".

The NFDC extended an exclusive invitation to Shoaib, being part of 75CMOT, to the Opening Ceremony of the 54th International Film Festival of India as a special guest of the Honorable Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.

As per a release by the



Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, the "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" is the brain child of Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur and was launched to commemorate the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahatsav at the 2021 edition of IFFI. The Minister congratulated the 75 talented filmmakers and artists, the promising cinematic talents, who have been hand-picked from a pool of over 600 from 19 different States and Union Territories of India based on their talent in different crafts of filmmaking across 10 categories like Direction, Art Design, Scriptwriting, Cinematography, Acting, Music Composition, Visual Effects (VFX) etc, as part of "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow".

Shoaib Shawl has been selected for "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" under the category 'Art Direction' where under only three youth have been selected across the country. Shoaib hails from Jammu region of J&K and graduated in filmmaking from the New York Film Academy, Los Angeles. He was recently selected for Gold Rising Program 2023 by Oscars-awarding Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, USA. His short film "Beads of Breaths" was recently selected and premiered at CHICAGO

SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL, Chicago, USA.

The 75 CMOT will showcase and exhibit talent of these artists by producing short films as part of "48 Hour Filmmaking Challenge" in group competition showcasing their interpretation of "Mission LIFE." The competition has been conceived by NFDC in partnership with 'Shorts International' a UK based company.

The selection to the "75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" will provide an opportunity to meet the who's who of the Indian Film Industry and network with prominent personalities from the world of cinema and to witness and experience the business of cinema at Film Bazaar, IFFI's Business arm, which encourages collaboration between South Asian and international film communities.

A once-in-a-lifetime, and brilliant opportunity to learn and enter the Film Industry through organizations that excel in the craft and have a proven track record of launching careers of several brilliant minds through the CMOT Talent Camp where participants will pitch their ideas, concepts, skills, and previous work to obtain an employment opportunity with industry's leading names, says NFDC.

"The 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow" shall be provided opportunity to attend Master classes by industry experts at the 54th IFFI and will be required to virtually/physically attend the same till the end of the festival. "This initiative is a crucial pit stop in India's race to becoming the Content Subcontinent of the World" said the Minister of Information and Broadcasting as per their press release.

Samba Border Villagers Mourn Death Of Jawan In Naxal Attack

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Hundreds of villagers assembled at the house of an ITBP jawan who lost his life in a Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh in a border village in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district as the family waited for his mortal remains to arrive on Saturday.

According to officials, the body of the slain jawan is reaching his home later in the day and the cremation is likely to take place on Sunday.

Head Constable Joginder Kumar was killed in a blast in Gariaband district on Friday after the conclusion of the second phase of assembly elections in Chhattisgarh when a polling team being escorted by security personnel was returning after conducting voting.

The news of Kumar's death in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion near Bade Gobra village left his village in a state of mourning.

Kumar (45), a resident of Abtal Katalan village in Ramgarh sector of Samba, belongs to a family of security personnel with his father and elder brother retiring from the Army, while his two other younger siblings are serving in the ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Villagers gathered at Kumar's house, just two km from the International Border, to console the grieving family members, including his mother and wife, who were inconsolable.

Sarpanch Somnath said they came to know about the unfortunate incident at 5 pm on Friday. "The village is sad about the loss of his life," he said.

Amidst the heart-wrenching scene at the house, the jawan's father Dileep Singh - a retired Army personnel - and his nine-year-old son put up a

brave face.

"I am sad about the passing away of my son but at the same time I am also proud that he laid down his life in the service of the nation," Singh told reporters at his residence which falls under the Pakistani shelling range.

He said Kumar was very enthusiastic about joining the forces like his brothers to serve the country. "I have seen him working hard to get selected... now he has left his minor son behind, the government should come forward to support him," Singh said Kumar was planning to return home on leave after the completion of the election process. He gave up his life to uphold democracy, Singh said.

"Naxalism is nothing new and has been going on for the last many decades. The government should find a permanent solution to the problem," Singh added.

Everyone is proud of Kumar for the ultimate sacrifice, his elder brother Jagdish Raj said, but questioned the persistent problem of Naxalism.

"We are here (in the service) ready to sacrifice. But it hurts more when the one loses his life in internal security duty. They were picked up from elsewhere and deputed on election duty without any knowledge of the topography and challenges," the grieving brother said.

He said it was unfortunate that the government has so far failed to deal with the Naxal problem effectively.

"They are talking about the readiness to tackle the threat of enemy nations but we are unable to overrun the small camps run by Naxals and secure the forests," he said.

Remembering his brother's efforts, Jagdish Raj said Kumar had secured the first position during his selection and served the country for over two decades.

IUST Achieves 4-Star Innovation Ranking From MoE

Observer News Service

Awantipora: The Ministry of Education, Government of India's Institution Innovation Council (IIC) has awarded IUST a prestigious 4/5 star ranking for its commendable efforts in nurturing innovation, entrepreneurial ecosystem, and capacity building of the youth. In the all-India IIC ranking made public on Saturday.

IUST is among few of the institutes in the country, and notably, the only institute from Jammu and Kashmir, achieving a 4-star ranking. IUST, through its Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), has been at the

forefront of inspiring and guiding youth to transform their innovative ideas into successful ventures. The institution actively provides mentorship support to aspiring entrepreneurs and offers seed capital grants to startups all over the country.

Expressing his gratitude, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor of IUST, commended the collective efforts of the IUST fraternity for achieving this remarkable feat. He emphasized that the collaborative initiatives between IUST and industry partners signal a new era of entrepreneurial revolution that will contribute to the prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. Romshoo thanked the

Government of India and the UT administration for their generous support to IUST in promoting a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and startups in the region.

He elaborated that CIED IUST- Foundation, a registered Section 8 company, stands as the pioneer and the only incubator in Jammu and Kashmir, providing substantial capital support of up to 50 lakhs to individual startups through the Startup Seed Capital Fund Scheme of the DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. This important initiative is geared towards empowering start-ups and catalysing the realization of their ideas into thriving

business ventures. Prof. Romshoo also highlighted the recent funding from the Department of Science and Technology, amounting to about Rs. 5.0 crores, for the establishment of an inclusive Technology Business Incubator (i-TBI) at IUST. He emphasized that CIED has conducted numerous outreach initiatives across Jammu and Kashmir, impacting over ten thousand youths, with a specific focus on women's entrepreneurship development. Furthermore, he announced that in collaboration with SIDBI, IUST is introducing a STEM (Skill to Enterprise Model) one-year diploma program aimed at equipping skilled youth with entrepreneurial skills.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Invites

entrepreneurs and artisan under one roof.

He said the India International Trade Fair's (IITF) theme this year is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-United by trade', offering an ideal platform to showcase state-of-the-art technologies, innovations and an infinite variety of creative products.

"J&K Pavilion at IITF is getting extraordinary response from domestic and international buyers. It has become the most effective instrument to promote the tremendous market potential of J&K UT and build and strengthen the trade ties," he said.

Sharing J&K's journey over the past few years, the LG said the UT is undergoing a rapid process of transformation. He said the change taking place in diverse sectors has given our entrepreneurs a new set of wings to achieve the new goals and tap into international markets.

"Efforts are being made to provide J&K's handloom, handicraft and agro sector access to the global market. New Handloom, Handicraft policy and other interventions have brought positive change in the lives of our artisans and skilled workforce," he added.

The LG also highlighted the key initiatives of his administration to provide vast opportunities to women entrepreneurs and artisans to showcase their skills and contribute to the local economy.

At IITF, the LG visited the J&K Pavilion and interacted with the exhibitors, entrepreneurs and artisans from Jammu Kashmir. He said the stalls put up at the Trade fair displaying products from J&K are a must-visit for all.

"J&K is part of focus states/UTs this year and more than 122 exhibitors from the Union Territory are offering unique handicraft, handloom and agro-based products. Visitors and buyers can experience the creativity of our craftspeople, weavers, and a wide canvas of agricultural products," Sinha added.

A grand cultural programme was also organized to mark the occasion.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Khalid Jahangir, Managing Director JKTPD; officers of J&K Government and India Trade Promotion Organization; members of business and trade fraternity were present.

Let's Join Hands

People who decide to help or facilitate a youngster to join the terrorist ranks will be equally liable, if not more. There will be sustained action against the people who motivate and recruit," he said.

He also cautioned the people who 'write differently to encourage' terror recruitment in the Valley of action.

"Even the people who write very differently are liable for encouraging recruitment. We will also act against them.

Those who instigate people under the garb of freedom and expression will face action," he said.

He also advised parents to keep monitoring their wards and check their phones regularly to find out if he is not caught in the terror trap.

In a veiled attack on Pakistan, the DGP said that the neighboring country was poisoning the people of Kashmir with continued supply of narcotics like brown sugar, heroin and cocaine. However, he quickly added that police will not hesitate to take strictest action against those, including the personnel from police or security establishment, or anyone from the society, who facilitate and promote narco trade.

"Earlier, charas was being sold locally. However, it wasn't that harmful. Now poison is being pushed into Kashmir in the form of brown sugar, heroin and cocaine. That poison is being sold and people are being killed," he said.

He also vowed to break the backbone of narco-traders who have raised big mansions and are travelling in big cars with the money earned from drug dealing.

"And while acting against such people, we will not back out. People who think that they have built big houses, have bought cars with this money will not go scot free. We will go after them. For now, we will not focus on peddlers or small-time retailers; we will go after those wholesale dealers who have made crores," he said.

Earlier, the DGP said that the maiden public grievance meeting was a new effort aimed to build connection with the people. The public darbar, he said, won't have a solution to all issues but the issues within the domain of the police department, he said, will be resolved.

He said the grievances redressal mechanism will have a regular follow-up and the complainants will remain well informed about the status of their cases.

Pertinently, the DGP had announced last week to hold two-hour public grievance meetings on two Saturdays of every month in the twin cities of Srinagar and Jammu.

For me too, it is an experiment. It has a message value. I will also remain aware of what kind of things affect police administration, including different categories of grievances and complaints," Swain added.

Kashmir Shivers

is also affecting J&K on the next weekend.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that generally dry weather with occasional cloudiness is expected on November 25th.

He said that overall no significant weather activity till 26th November is expected.

Director MeT further informed that a shallow fog with mist is expected during morning and evening hours—(KNO)

Budgam Court

PW(prosecution witness)-19 also, PW-1 and accused in their statements have also stated that the accused and deceased were seen together going to their house in the

evening of 01th of May 2011 when deceased had gone to attend the marriage function of one of the cousins of the deceased," the court said, adding, "Accused in his statement of accusation has stated that on the day he was at his work place and all the witnesses produced by prosecution have given wrong statement and deceased has committed suicide."

These facts, the court said, have not been put forth by the accused by evidence in defence.

"Even though opportunity was provided to accused (Mushtaq), who has taken the defence of not being present on the spot on the day of occurrence has not been able to provide any circumstance to show that accused was not present on spot on the fateful day," the court said in 90-page verdict.

The court is likely to announce the quantum of sentence on November 23.

Lal Singh Sent

of other material witnesses are yet to be recorded, as such, the prayer of the IO is granted and the accused person is remanded to judicial custody for a period of 14 days w.e.f. (with effect from) 18-11-2023 to 01-12-2023," the court said.

The court directed that Singh be lodged at the district jail in Amphalla, Jammu and asked the IO to expedite the investigation.

"Accused person shall be subjected to regular medical checkup under rules. He has been apprised of his right to engage an advocate to defend him," the order said.

Singh will be produced in court through video conferencing after the expiry of judicial remand on December 1.

The court directed the superintendent of the district jail in Amphalla to provide basic amenities to the accused in line with the jail manual.

The former minister was arrested from a house here on November 7 within hours of the special judge dismissing his anticipatory bail application.

He is under investigation by the ED in connection with the case against an educational trust run by his wife and former legislator Kanta Andotra.

In a related development, the arguments on the main bail application in the court of principal sessions judge, Jammu remained inconclusive and will resume on Monday. Special public prosecutor Ashwani Khajuria filed a detailed objection in the court and sought a direction to the petitioner to present the bail application before the special judge in the interest of justice and fair procedure of law.

The money laundering case stems from an October 2021 charge sheet filed by the CBI in this case which alleged criminal connivance in the issuance of land between January 4 and January 7, 2011, without mentioning details in respect of violation of the ceiling limit of 100 standard kanals imposed under Section 14 of the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, thereby giving undue pecuniary

advantage to trust.

Based on this, the trust acquired multiple pieces of land of about 329 kanals vide three gift deeds executed on January 5 and January 7, 2011, the CBI charge sheet claimed.

In 2015, Lal Singh was inducted into the Mufti Mohammad Sayeed-led PDP-BJP government. He quit the BJP in 2019 amid a controversy over the Kathua rape and murder case.

Singh was elected as MP from Udhampur Lok Sabha seat in 2009 and 2004 on Congress ticket. He was elected to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in the 1996 and 2002 polls and was then appointed minister for health and medical education in the Sayeed-led Congress-PDP government

HC Grants Bail

assertions prejudicial to national-integration (Section 153-B) of the Indian Penal Code were quashed against Shah.

The case was heard on Friday by a Jammu wing of bench comprising justices Sreedharan and M L Manhas, Raina said. He said Shah will, however, face trial under Section 13 (abetting unlawful activities) of the UA(PA). He will also undergo trial for allegedly receiving foreign funds illegally.

In April, the high court had quashed Shah's detention under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA).

Shah was arrested in February 2022 allegedly for his reporting of an encounter in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir.

HC Seeks Govt's

by the language recognized internationally.

"...We also hope and trust that the society as a whole shall recognize their rights as guaranteed under the Constitution."

The specially-abled persons, the court had said, be treated properly by the language recognized internationally. "We also direct the respondents to ensure that the facilities...are provided/developed, if not, already existing," the court had said.

The court said that it expects that the officials shall ensure full respect and honour to all citizens in terms of their personality without letting them suffer any impression that the society and State sees and address the "physically and mentally challenged persons as liabilities carrying personalities and, as such, sensitivity has to be in full operation."

"The concern of the petitioner is that the respondents (Centre and J&K government) who use the language guidelines already introduced universally and the list of words and their alternate words enumerated, mentioned, illustrated so that internal and external communications must be respectful physically as well as mentally," the court had said. Across the world, respectful language, disability communication, disability etiquette have been prescribed, mentioned and used during communications, pleadings, judicial orders, academic writings, official work, educational textbooks, pamphlets, across public and private offices, the court had observed.

ODI WORLD CUP FINAL - IND V AUS

Ruthless India Ready For Date With History

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: An Indian captain ready to create a legacy of his own will have 10 ruthless professionals and a billion cricket maniacs for support when his team takes on five-time champions Australia in a winner-takes-it-all World Cup final on what promises to be a 'Super Sunday'.

Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin know the feeling of winning a ODI World Cup back and Rohit Sharma himself was in the thick of things at the 'Bull Ring' in Johannesburg when India won their maiden T20 World Cup in 2007.

But the final on Sunday will be completely different. It won't just be a mere cricket tournament that needs to be won but also caring about the emotions of all those invested in the game. Rohit and his mates have time and again said that they don't care about the outside noise but it is this outside noise that has made the game and this team relevant.

All the stakeholders -- the fans, who treat these players as 'Demi Gods', the broadcasters who spend a bomb buy

Indian cricket telecast rights and the sponsors, who support the game -- all want the game to thrive and survive.

When Kapil Dev's toothy grin at the Lord's balcony melted fans' hearts in 1983, it was the beginning and no one knew which direction the road ahead will lead us to. When Dhoni hit that winning six in 2011 World Cup final, it was more about a final reiteration that the 'Mecca of Cricket' has shifted long back and everyone needed to take a bow and accept Indian domination.

Circa 2023, Indian cricket team will not just be looking to win a third ODI global title but also look at saving the '50-over format' which has been battling identity crisis for at least five years now.

An Indian victory will give the format the injection it needs.

No team has ever won a World Cup with 11 victories on the bounce and even England had lost to Pakistan en route their global triumph in 2019. Rohit indeed has a date with history since if the team manages its 11th win on the trot it will be difficult to break the record.



Australia Plot Ways To Silence Indian Crowd

Agencies

AHMEDABAD: It was not known if Pat Cummins was searching 'How to silence a big, partisan crowd' as the Australia captain entered the press conference room fiddling with his phone but he conceded that was pretty much the plan for the World Cup final against India.

As if India's formidable batting lineup and fiery bowling attack were not handful enough, Australia will also have to deal with boisterous Indian fans, who will be egging on Rohit Sharma and his team on Sunday. Not a single seat in the 130,000-capacity Narendra Modi Stadium is likely to stay unoccupied when five-time champions Australia clash with an India side who are unbeaten in the tournament.

Cummins said the best way to overcome a challenge like that was to embrace it.

"The crowd's obviously going to be very one-sided but in sport, there's nothing more satisfying than hearing a big crowd go silent and that's the aim for us tomorrow," he told reporters on Saturday.

"You've just got to embrace every part of a final ... you know

in the lead-up there's going to be noise and more people and interest and you just can't get overwhelmed."

Beaten comprehensively by India in their opener, Australia strung together eight wins in a row to make the final against India, who have a perfect 10-0 record in the tournament.

"We know it's going to be a packed house. There's going to be 130,000 fans here supporting India. So it's going to be awesome," Cummins said. "They've been playing really well, undefeated this tournament. But we know at our best we can give them a good shake."

Much of it will depend on how their new ball pair of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood fare against India's top order.

Cummins felt Australia were yet to play a "complete game" in the tournament and hoped they have preserved it for the summit clash. "There have been no huge wins. We've had to fight for every win, but we've found a way to win," Cummins said.

"I'm taking that confidence, knowing that we don't have to be at our absolute best to challenge any team, we can find a way through it."

Inter-District Athletic Meet For Girls Begins In Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi ud Din Bhat, on Saturday inaugurated the Inter-District Athletic Meet 2023 for girls of all age groups at Sports Stadium here.

The mega event is being organised by the Joint Directorate, Youth Services and Sports Kashmir and hosted by DYSSO Kulgam.

About 300 girl athletes from all districts of Kashmir are taking part in this athletics meet.

Speaking at the occasion, DC Kulgam appreciated the determination of the athletes for

smooth conduct of provincial and district level competitions and credited the Khelo India initiative of the department for honing the sports skills of the young talented lot.

The DC also emphasised upon the students to take keen interest in sports as it will not only boost their academics, but will prepare them for future competitions and for pursuing sports as career.

Principal, GHSS Kulgam was the Guest of Honor at the occasion.

DYSSO Kulgam, Mushtaq Ahmad Pampori in his welcome address presented the schedule of the mega event and also as-



participating in the meet while highlighting the significance of the sports.

He underlined the benefits of the sports competition in the physical and mental development of the individuals.

He appreciated the sports atmosphere and infrastructure in place in the district for the

sured the participants, guests and athletes that the department has kept all the arrangements in place for the smooth conduct of the meet.

The DYSSO Kulgam also thanked the District Administration for its support and cooperation in organising various sports programs from time to time.

J&K Bank Beats FC1 4-0 In Srinagar Premier League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank FC defeated FC1 4-0 on Saturday in a Round 20 match of the 2023 Srinagar Premier League at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

J&K Bank was the heavy favourite to end FC1's re-

markable unbeaten run in the Premier Division. Playing in foggy conditions, J&K Bank took the lead through Prem in the 3rd minute of the game, before the striker doubled the lead in the 21st minute. Bank's talismanic striker Akif made it 3-0 in added time, as

J&K Bank entered the second half with a commanding lead. Akif made it 4-0 in the 65th minute, but FC1's defence held on to not let anymore goals in.

Prem was awarded player of the match for his two-goal performance.

Kashmir To Host Women's Judo Tournament In January

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Judo Association, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (SAI) and the Judo Federation of India, will host the third edition of the Khelo India North Zone Women's Judo League and Ranking Tournament in Kashmir

from January next year. The tournament will begin January 18, 2024, and end on the January 21 at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Stadium, with 500 female Judokas from across North India competing in various categories, including Sub-Junior, Cadet, Junior and Senior. "Beyond the thrill of

competition, the event provides a significant platform for these young athletes to demonstrate their skills and determination. Gold medalists will be awarded a cash prize of Rs 10,000, silver medalists Rs 7,000, and bronze medalists Rs 5,000," the J&K Judo Association said in a statement.

Cricket Match For Visually Impaired Held At Pampore

Special Secy YSS assures support to players



Observer News Service

PAMPORE: With an aim of promoting sports activities among persons with disabilities, a cricket match was organised by Birla Open Minds School Pampore in association with J&K Blind Welfare Trust and J&K RTI Movement on Saturday.

The match was played between South 11 and Central 11. South 11 won the match with close margin. South 11's Lateef Bhatti, who hails from Shopian, was declared player of the match.

Raja Waseem, Special Secretary Youth Services and Sports, was chief guest on the occasion and assured full support to the visually impaired cricketers and urged upon J&K Blind Welfare Trust and Birla Open Minds School Pampore to continue such programmes for welfare of persons

with disabilities.

He appreciated Dr. Raja Muzaffar for encouraging blind youth to participate in sports activities especially playing cricket.

Chairman BML Trust G M Lone, Dr. Mehnaz Principal Birla Open Minds School, Farooq Kuthoo Executive Member KCCI, Sajjad Rasool Senior Member RTI Movement, M Shafi Rather Social Activist and Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat Chairman RTI Movement/Patron Blind Welfare Trust also participated in the programme and distributed mementos among the participants.

Showkat Ahmad Lone Chairman J&K Blind Welfare Trust thanked Special Secretary YSS, Chairman and Staff of Birla Open Minds School and Chairman RTI Movement for their support.

Australian Team Donates To Gaza Before WC Qualifier Vs Palestine

Agencies

SYDNEY: Players on Australia's national soccer team will donate a portion of their match fees from a World Cup qualifier against Palestine towards humanitarian causes in Gaza.

Australia plays Palestine in Kuwait on Tuesday in a game that was going to be held in the West Bank but was relocated due to the escalation of violence in the region.

Hamas' deadly attack on Israel's southern region on Oct. 7 was followed by Israel declaring war on the group and launching retaliatory strikes on the Gaza Strip. Palestinian health officials say more than 11,000 residents in Hamas-controlled Gaza have been killed in air and artillery strikes.

"It's unfathomable to comprehend," midfielder Jackson Irvine was quoted by Australian Associated Press as saying Saturday. "You're talking about one of the most complicated geopolitical issues of the last 100 years."

The players' union, Professional Footballers Australia, confirmed a percentage of player match fees would be directed towards Oxfam's humanitarian efforts in Gaza, via the PFA's Footballers' Trust. The move is a player-led effort with Football Australia matching the players' donation, but no dollar amounts were mentioned.

"The thoughts of the PFA are with all of those impacted by the conflict and the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding as a result," co-chief executive

officer Beau Busch said in a statement. "Aid agencies and humanitarian groups have been clear on the scale of need and the players were able to play a part."

Irvine is the PFA president as well as captain of German club FC St. Pauli.

The Soccerroos beat Bangladesh 7-0 in Melbourne on Thursday and took a charter flight to Kuwait on Saturday. The Palestinians held Lebanon to a 0-0 draw on neutral turf in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates in their second-round opener.

"We're aware of the situation, we understand that football in this moment is probably not the priority in some ways," Irvine said. "But at the end of the day, we've got a game to win and a performance to focus on."

Real's Vinicius, Camavinga Suffer Injuries On International Duty

Agencies

MADRID: Real Madrid's Brazil forward Vinicius has been ruled out of his country's World Cup qualifier against Argentina on Tuesday with a thigh injury, the Brazilian FA said on Friday. Vinicius was forced off during Brazil's 2-1 loss to Colombia on Thursday, with what further tests confirmed to be an injury to the posterior muscle of his left thigh.

The 23-year-old's absence follows that of fellow Real Madrid player, France midfielder Eduardo Camavinga, who suffered a ruptured external lateral ligament in his right knee training with his country, the club said on Friday. France host Gibraltar in Euro 2024 qualifying on Saturday having already secured their place at the finals.

The 21-year-old Camavinga, who has played in every La-Liga game for Real Madrid this season, joins the club's Belgian goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, Brazil defender Eder Militao



and Turkey midfielder Arda Guler who have suffered knee injuries. Real are second in La-Liga with 32 points from 13 matches, two points behind Girona. They visit Cadiz in their next league game on Nov. 26 after the international break.

Vinicius Expected To Miss Nearly Two Months

Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior tore a leg muscle while playing with Brazil's national

team in South American World Cup qualifying, the Spanish club said Saturday.

Madrid said medical exams showed Vinicius has a muscle tear in his left leg. He was injured in Brazil's 2-1 loss at Colombia on Friday, having to be substituted before halftime.

Madrid did not give a timetable for Vinicius' recovery, but that type of injury can sideline players for about two months.

Vinicius "has been diagnosed

with a tear in his left femoral bicep which is affecting the tendon in his hamstring. His recovery will be monitored," the club said.

Madrid has already qualified for the knockout stage of the Champions League. It is a couple of points behind leader Girona after 13 rounds in the La Liga.

The 23-year-old Vinicius has scored six goals for Madrid this season, including three in the team's last two matches.

1.3 Million Lives Lost Every Year To Cancers Caused By Tobacco Smoking In 7 Countries: Lancet Study

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Over 1.3 million lives are lost every year to cancers caused by smoking tobacco across seven countries, including India, according to a study published in The Lancet's clinical medicine journal.

Researchers found that together, the seven countries -- India, China, the UK, Brazil, Russia, the US and South Africa -- represented more than half of the global burden of cancer deaths every year.

They noted that smoking, as well as three other preventable risk factors -- alcohol, obesity, and human papillomavirus (HPV) infections -- caused almost two million deaths combined.

The study, carried out by researchers from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and Kings College London, UK, also analysed the years of life lost to cancer.

The researchers concluded that the four preventable risk factors resulted in over 30 million years of life lost each year.

Smoking tobacco had by far the biggest impact - leading to 20.8 million years of life being lost.

"Seeing how many years of life are lost to cancer due to these risk factors in countries around the world allows us



to see what certain countries are doing well, and what isn't working," said Judith Offman, Senior Lecturer at Queen Mary University of London.

"Globally, someone dies every two minutes from cervical cancer. (Around) 90 per cent of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries and could be cut drastically with comprehensive screening and HPV vaccination programmes," said Offman, who worked on the study while at King's College London.

The researchers made the findings by collecting population-attributable fractions of the four risk factors from previous global studies and applied these to estimates of cancer deaths during 2020.

Preventable risk factors were associated with different cancer types in different

places, they said.

For example, in India, there were more premature deaths from head and neck cancer in men and gynaecological cancer in women, but in every other country, tobacco smoking caused the most years of life to be lost to lung cancer.

The researchers believe that this is due to differences in each of the countries.

Cervical screening is less comprehensive in India and South Africa than in other countries like the UK and the US, which would explain why there are more premature deaths from gynaecological cancers due to HPV infection in the two countries, they said.

The higher number of years of life lost to head and neck cancer in men in India could be explained by smoking habits being different

to those in the UK, with the general population smoking different tobacco products, according to the researchers.

There are gender differences in the number of cancer deaths and years of life lost to different risk factors.

Men have higher rates of years of life lost to smoking and drinking alcohol because smoking and drinking rates tend to be higher in men, they said.

The study shows that in China, India and Russia, rates of years of life lost to tobacco smoking and alcohol were up to nine times higher in men than women.

Being overweight or obese, and HPV infection, led to more cancer deaths and years of life lost in women than in men.

In South Africa and India, HPV led to particularly high rates of years of life lost with a large gender imbalance, they said.

Rates were 60 times higher in women than men in South Africa, and 11 times higher in India, which highlights the urgent need for improved access to cervical screening and the HPV vaccination in these countries, the analysis shows.

"We know that HPV vaccination prevents cervical cancer. This, coupled with cervical screening, could eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem. Countries need to come together on this ambition," Offman added.

Social media titans caught in Gaza storm over content

Washington: Six weeks after the eruption of the war in Gaza with the attack by Hamas on Israel, social media platforms are still caught in the maelstrom, struggling to control content and withstand user fury.

TikTok and X, formerly Twitter, were swept up in controversies this week, one involving an unearthing of a two-decade old screed by Osama bin Laden, the mastermind of the 9/11 terror attacks on the United States. Facebook and Instagram owner Meta is also facing pushback from users accusing the company founded by Mark Zuckerberg of over-censorship of pro-Palestinian content.

The problems have cast a harsh light on content moderation policies at the big platforms after a big cost-cutting campaign last year saw trust and safety teams gutted.

For TikTok, the risks are real as it faces a threat to be outright banned in the United States, under suspicion that its powerful algorithm is ultimately under the control of the Chinese Communist Party.

Those calls were renewed when it emerged on Thursday that videos promoting bin Laden's "Letter to America" went viral, 22 years after he wrote it. Bin Laden's deeply anti-American writing explained his reasons for masterminding plane attacks on New York and Washington that killed nearly 3,000 people. Searches for the letter were eventually banned by TikTok which minimized the reach of the videos.

"TikTok is so popular now with younger users, and when you talk about younger users you are talking about uniquely uninformed people," said Paul Barrett, deputy director of the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights.

"They do not have enough knowledge of the world to know you can't rely on Osama Bin Laden as your history teacher," he added.

"Flip a switch" Meanwhile, according to The New York Times, more than a dozen Jewish TikTok celebrities confronted executives this week

urging them to stop a surge of anti-Semitism on the app.

"What is happening at TikTok is it is creating the biggest anti-Semitic movement since the Nazis," Sacha Baron Cohen told TikTok in a 90-minute impassioned phone call, according to the Times.

The "Borat" star said TikTok could "flip a switch" to stop such videos, which the company denied it could do.

At X, the problems came of mercurial owner Elon Musk's own making, when he endorsed an anti-Semitic post as the "actual truth," setting off a firestorm that saw yet more major advertisers flee the platform.

Apple, Disney, and Lionsgate Entertainment on Friday were reported to have joined IBM in pausing advertising on X.

Musk had engaged with a conspiratorial claim that Jews want to flood the US with minorities to weaken white majorities.

The theory, observers said, was once notoriously promoted by the man who carried out a mass shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018, killing 11 people in the country's deadliest anti-Semitic attack.

Musk's post received a rebuke from the White House and saw left-wing media watchdog Media Matters for America warn major companies that their ads on X were accompanying blatantly anti-Semitic content.

IBM hours later pulled company ads from the site, while the European Union also said it would halt advertising on X because of a surge in disinformation and hate speech.

'Not worth it'

Musk is one of the world's most powerful people and his behavior on X seems to indicate he is not bothered particularly about spooking advertisers on a site he paid \$44 billion for last year. Privileging free speech over content moderation, the main risk Musk faces is that Apple or Google could one day boot X from their app stores, said Andrew Selepak, assistant media professor at the University of Florida.

Delhi Police To Dismantle 7,000 British-Era Three-Nought-Three Rifles



Agenceis

New Delhi: The British era .303 rifles, which remained a part of the Delhi Police for decades, will soon be retired from the force, according to a senior officer. According to the Delhi Police, at least 7,000 such firearms, better known as three-nought-three rifles, are set to be dismantled by the force.

"The use of these weapons came to an end years back and they are ready for dismantling," the officer said.

These .303 rifles are kept at the armoury unit of the Delhi Police.

According to sources, a Joint Commissioner rank officer has been appointed to oversee the dismantling of these weapons. The whole operation will be done under the supervision of a committee set by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The .303 calibre Lee-Enfield rifles were initially manufactured in UK arms factories, and extensively used in World War I and II. In India, these rifles were used by the Indian army during the Indo-China war in 1962 and later handed over to the state forces. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Provisioning and Logistics) Vinit Kumar confirmed that the weapons were up for dismantling.

Another officer said, the process of dismantling of these weapons, each of which weighs approximately 5 kg, is lengthy, and involves removal and destruction of each part. Before they are destroyed, the barrel and the body parts are separated, so that it cannot be further used. The iron from the firearm is melted.

"The procurement of the cartridges of these guns was stopped soon after the force decided to end the service of these weapons. Therefore, there is no ammunition left for these guns," an officer said.

The Delhi Police currently has SLR, INSAS, and AK47 for long range, 9 mm Glock pistol, revolvers for short range, and JVP and MP5 as machine guns, which are used during special operations.

An officer said that the old sten guns, a relic from the World War, will also be soon dismantled. A huge chunk of these guns is kept in the armoury. "Once these rifles get dismantled, sten guns will be next," the officer added.

Many state forces, including Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, have already retired the .303 rifles.

The Mumbai Police had decided to replace these guns soon after the 26/11 attack, when its personnel had a confrontation with terrorists armed with much sophisticated AK 47, PTI

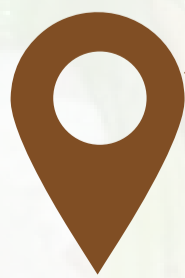


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PRESS NOTE



CSK Organised One-day Awareness Programme about Breast Cancer

Cancer Society of Kashmir in collaboration with MGDC CHRAR I SHARIEF Kashmir organised a daylong event on Awareness Programme About Breast Cancer.

The session was presided by Principal MGDC CHRAR I SHARIEF Prof. Ravina Hassan. In her welcome address, she talked about the role of educational institutions to conduct such type of awareness programmes. She further said, that in future, the college will provide all support & cooperation for conducting these type of programmes.

Dr. Tariq Abdullah Khawar, EMMRC Producer elaborated the fundamental objectives & causes of the society. He further said, CSK conducting screening camps at various educational institutions in different parts of the valley throughout the year to aware the students about this disease.

Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Maqbool Lone, Ex HOD Radiation Oncology SKIMS, highlighted the presence of cancers in the body. He also talked about the myths and misconceptions about breast cancer.

He further said that, the breast cancer is not contagious and treatable if we detect it early.

Dr. Shahida Nasreen, Associate professor, Radiation Oncology SKIMS, highlighted the risk factors of Breast Cancer. "Awareness is the major factor in the early detection of this cancer", she said.

Dr. Shaqul Qamar Wani, Additional Professor, Radiation Oncology SKIMS gave detailed presentation about the importance of Breast self-examination.

In this event, hundreds of students participated and later, a free screening was conducted by Female doctors including Dr. Shahida Nasreen, Dr. Shaqul Qamar Wani & Dr. Mareekha Ahmad.

Furthermore, a question and answer session was held with faculty members and students of MGCD. They expressed their apprehensions & concerns with the team of doctors.

Dr. Neelofar, Sr. Asstt. Professor of MGDC Chrar I Sharief, proposed the vote of

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